

# **Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**

Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2024  
Via Zoom

## **Board Members in Attendance**

Commander. G. Bartlett  
Chief E. Jaramillo  
Ryan Delaware  
Robert Salazar  
Paula Burton  
Ellen Braden  
Rachel Biggs  
Dr. N. Duranceaux  
Coty Maxwell  
Mary Perez  
Bernice Varela  
David Ley  
Mariela Ruiz-Angel

Crisis Intervention Division  
Albuquerque Fire Rescue  
Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless  
Peer Representation  
Peer Representative  
Health, Housing, and Homelessness  
Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless  
APD Behavioral Sciences Section  
APD Crisis Intervention Division  
UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

## **Introduction to MHRAC**

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) was created by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and have a focus on three areas, resources, and resources being available to access different things within the city that APD and first responders can use as it impacts homelessness and mental health issues. We are also involved in training and policy; training is one of those things we made a tremendous impact on. As far as the training that is offered. Policies are one of those things where the MHRAC is involved with assisting in writing approving, and recommending policy as it relates again to the narrow focus; we think narrow, but sometimes it gets pretty wide-focused on how law enforcement interacts with those experiencing homelessness and those experiencing a mental health crisis.

## **Attendance of Board Members**

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos took the roll call; thirteen of the seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

## **Welcome First-Time Guests**

Noel Kofoed, Lisa Chavez, **Chris Horn**, and Angelica Pena-Fernandez of Hopeworks  
Jennifer Viola of the Albuquerque Police Department  
Claire Carmony of New Mexico Crisis and Access Line  
Joel Ervin of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – Paula Burton

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – Dr. Duranceaux

Minutes from the November 2024 meeting were approved.

### **Public Comment**

Joel Ervin

hello and thank you for this invitation. My name is Joel Irvin. I am a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have investigated violent crime, homicides and suicides for 14 years in New Mexico for the nonprofit group, citizens commission on human rights. We are the largest mental health watchdog in the world. At a recent meeting I had with the Mexico DOJ Diane Marcus, we discussed psychotropic drugs being a major reason for violent crime, and her response was absolutely for the last 14 years, Omi has not been testing for these drugs. They have been performing basic toxins and should be obtaining expanded toxes to possibly discover SSRIs and Dr eyes and other mind altering substances. My meetings with police, attorneys and government officials have shown a mandatory need for expanded toxicology testing for all violent crime, herps, homicides and suicides and the need for going public on these results. For example, the Las Vegas Nevada shooters drug information was released to the public from the Nevada PMP. If you guys have questions about what I'm saying, let me know this specific data released to the public will inform all citizens the need to know all side effects of these dangerous prescription drugs, and will also fill the vacuum the public has wondering why a specific incident occurred or possibly occurred. Law enforcement has the ability to legally break HIPAA laws to protect all citizens. There is much more information, including videos and corroborating evidence, that I would like to reveal to you in a meeting that will be short and concise and very eye opening. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Karen Navarro

- Not picking up homeless to go to shelters

my concern to express tonight is I think that it is very likely that people are not being picked up who want to go to shelters. And so I'm directing my comments to ACS and HDH because I think you'll both your departments can fix this problem. I've heard there's only one van that ACS uses, and I know as a staff person and a volunteer who waited with somebody and never, you know, was picked up and first was told an hour and then told, Well, it'll be another hour. Is because they have one van going from one side of the city to the other. So one, one fix would be if there is a overflow shelter, which I've heard that there is, for these dangerous nights. This is like Minnesota weather right now, dangerous old that the overflow shelter would be the first place people would be taken so that the van and other transport is not going all the way out to the West Side shelter and back, leaving people standing and waiting and eventually giving up. So that's my number one concern. I think HCS and hh should get together figure this out, and that the overflow shelter shouldn't be the last resort shelter, but maybe the first one, the temperatures are dangerous, and it takes a lot less time to get to that in town shelter than it does to the west side. If somebody is calling the number 4186178, after eight o'clock at night, it should absolutely be mandatory to take to the overflow shelter. And that's the ACS number that's given out to the public from 8am 8pm to 7am Thank you.

### **MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)**

Rachel Biggs nominated Mariela Ruiz-Angel as a board member. Bernice Varela seconded the nomination.

Mary Perez will be stepping away as the co-chair but will remain a board member. A new co-chair position is available.

**MHRAC “Draft” Ordinance, Rachel Biggs & David Ley**

**APD eCIT Certification Program, Commander Gerard Bartlett**

**L.E.A.D Program Update, Azalea Echeverria-Alcala, Program Supervisor**

**Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update**

**Gateway Center and Health, Housing, & Homelessness Update**

**APD, CIU, and BSS Update**

Commander went over his PowerPoint presentation

Get Bid Analysis from Dr. Vielehr

Dr. Duranceaux introduced the two CIU/BSS Clinicians

**Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update**

No Update due to no December meeting

**MHRAC Final Discussion**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025

The full unedited Otter transcript of the MHRAC Meeting is available upon request, email [bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov](mailto:bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov).