

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett	Crisis Intervention Division
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Rescue
Robert Salazar	Peer Representation
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, and Homelessness
Rachel Biggs	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Dr. N. Duranceaux	APD Behavioral Sciences Section
Coty Maxwell	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Dr. David Ley	New Mexico Solutions
Mariela Ruiz-Angel	Georgetown Law
Jane Garland	NAMI
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom	Bernalillo County Behavioral Health

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 sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – David Ley

2nd Motion – Mary Perez

The minutes from the January 2025 meeting were approved by all the board members.

Public Comment

Liz De Kinder – Inquired about homeless shelters that allow pets.

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

None

MHRAC “Draft” Ordinance, Rachel Biggs & David Ley

- The idea for an ordinance is that MHRAC would become codified into a City Charter as a commission at the City Of Albuquerque.
- Rachel Biggs explained how the process works and then motioned to move forward with the “draft” ordinance language. Dr. David Ley seconded the motion. The remainder of the board members were in agreement to go forth with no concerns.
- David Ley mentioned why this came about and said that many lessons were learned through MHRAC and that helped put together the ordinance request.

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams

- They are holding a hiring event on Thursday, February 20th from 09:00-12:00 at the ACS Headquarters, 1210 San Mateo Blvd. NE. Those interested will be able to apply online and talk to their HR.

Gateway Center and Health, Housing, & Homelessness Update, Ellen Braden

- In their winter shelter they had an 893 bed night that they were able to provide. They will open again if the Gateway West and First Responder are full and there is a highly dangerous cold situation.
- A huge RFP is closing at the end of this week for six of their services (family, men/women, med-sobering, young adult, and first responder drop-off.)
- Data was given from June of 2022 to June of 2024. They had over 5000 people stay at the Gateway West shelter. There were 11,000 unique stays over that period and the average stay was five days. More than sixty percent of those stays did not return for a second stay.

APD, CIU, and BSS Update

- There are applicants for two APD MCT positions
- CIU has been to the legislature in regards to Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Orders (ERFPO) and will be going again in regards to mental health competency
- BSS has hired two clinicians who came over from ACS
- John Dodd will be interviewing for one MCT clinician. After the hire, they will have four MCT clinicians.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

Dr. David Ley is working on the Annual Report Our next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2025.

MHRAC Final Discussion

- Working on the MHRAC Annual Report
- Take the Encampment Policy back to the MHRAC Training & Infoshare Sub-committee for elaboration from city POCs. A meeting invite has been sent to the APD and Solid Waste encampment point of contact (POC).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025

A video recording of the MHRAC meeting is available upon request, email bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov.