

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Comdr. G. Bartlett/ Deputy Comdr. M. McElroy	Crisis Intervention Division
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Rescue
Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
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
Bernice Varela	Crossroads for Women
Ryan Delaware	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

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; twelve of sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Carly Martinez – Associate Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Amy Hilliard – NAMI Albuquerque Board Member

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Mary Perez

2nd Motion – David Ley

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

Public Comment

None

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

There were no new nominations this month

The honor was given to Betty Whiton who resigned after ten years with MHRAC.

2024 APD CIT Annual Report, Dr. Peter Vielehr

The full report can be found on the MHRAC website:

https://www.cabq.gov/mental-health-response-advisory-committee/documents/cit-annual-report_2024-final.pdf

Response to Behavioral Health Incidents



January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Crisis Intervention Section
Albuquerque Police Department



Types of Behavioral Health Response

1. ECIT Certified Field Services officers: These officers are assigned to Area Commands but have voluntarily received Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) training, which is an 8 hour course that must be refreshed every 2 years. All officers, receive 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training during their time in the academy and are instructed to request backup from an ECIT certified officer if they determine an encounter has a behavioral health component. As of December 31, 2024, 62%* of Field Services officers are ECIT certified. **excludes Police Officers Second Class (P2C) who are not eligible for ECIT training.*
2. Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) Detectives: Detectives specialized in crisis intervention who are assigned cases with individuals suffering from more severe behavioral health issues and may pose a safety risk to themselves or others. They often conduct follow up with community members who were determined to have a behavioral health issue during an initial encounter with APD officers. They facilitate individuals receiving mental health intervention.
3. Civilian Clinicians: Licensed mental health professionals who work in conjunction with CIU detectives and the Mobile Crisis Team. They provide evaluations, complete general psychological assessments, assist in crisis intervention, conduct dangerousness assessments, and make referrals for individuals with behavioral health issues who interact with department personnel.
4. Mobile Crisis Team (MCT): MCT is a two-person unit comprised of one licensed mental health clinician paired with an ECIT trained officer. They respond to high-priority calls with a behavioral health component offering on scene evaluation and triage which often results in mental health transport. They do not conduct criminal investigation.



For more information about APD's crisis intervention specialists, please refer to SOP 1-37, available at <https://public.powerdms.com/COA/tree/documents/96>

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams

- ACS Event to be held on behalf of the 100,000 call for service since our launch in 2021. The event will be held at 1210 San Mateo Blvd. NE on March 29, 2025 at 12:30.

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

- We currently have eight clients in the medical respite unit and can accommodate ten clients monthly until the unit becomes full.
- We opened our emergency winter shelter overflow unit for one or two nights the weekend before last due to Gateway West being at full capacity. We are monitoring the weather this week in case we need to open again.
- We continue our procurement process for FY26 Operations in Gateway men, women, family, first responders, medical sobering, and young adults. In FY26 they expect all those at some point to be operational.
- Gateway Recovery, we expect to be operational late this spring. This is for people who are housed or unhoused with early recovery and who have already been through detox.

APD, CIU, and BSS Update

- We have a coordinator position opening up soon, Detective Ben Melendrez has retired.
- There are applicants for two APD MCT positions
 - One officer from the field will transfer soon
 - Another field Officer will transfer when the field releases him
- CIU has been to the legislature regarding House Bill 12, Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Orders (ERFPO), which has passed the House.
- We will be going again in regards to mental health competency
- Three CIU staff (coordinators) attended the International Association Chief of Police Conference for Officer Safety and Wellness.
- APD CIT 40-hour will be held again on April 27 – May 2, 2025
- eCIT Training is currently being reviewed by the APD Academy. That will be sent off to the State, “hopefully,” to get accredited. The curriculum has been revamped and we started a new basic and a new recertification.
- CIT ECHO and SCION direction- SCION targeted mental health support for our first responders through connecting and sharing stories on coping and other similar topics. We are hoping to get SCION back online soon.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

- We had a very successful, informational, and productive meeting with the Solid Waste Department on how they are approaching encampments, etc.
- We will be sending a formal request to ACOA Carla Martinez who is in the Mayor’s office to receive Solid Waste quarterly data regarding encampments. Co-chair Ryan Delaware was asked to draft some language to get to ACOA Carla Martinez

MHRAC Final Discussion

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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