

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Comdr. G. Bartlett

Ellen Braden

Coty Maxwell

Mary Perez

Jane Garland

Bernice Varela

Ryan Delaware

Rachel Biggs

Robert Salazar

Paula Burton

Crisis Intervention Division

Health, Housing, Homelessness

APD Crisis Intervention Division

UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

NAMI

Crossroads for Women

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

Peer Support

Peer Support

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 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 have had 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 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; ten of sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Xochitl Campos Biggs - APD Chief Policy Advisor

Sean Martin – New ACS/MCT Clinician

Gregory Segura – Assistant City Attorney and counsel for MHRAC

Kristin Hansen – UNM Center for Development and Disability

James Freeman – Local Homeless Advocate

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Mary Perez

2nd Motion – Rachel Biggs and Bernice Varela

All the board members approved the minutes from the February 2025 meeting.

Public Comment

Karen Navarro

The downtown pickup site for the new Gateway West Shuttle has moved from Arvada to Commercial, and it's a safety concern. A dog that belonged to a couple was killed because the pickup is now near the Rail Runner tracks; it was run over by the Rail Runner. Karen suggested that Gateway consider reverting to the Arvada pickup spot for safety reasons until another site is found.

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

There were no new nominations this month

Legislature Update, Xochitl Campos-Biggs, Rachel Biggs, Sgt. Tinney

- Senate Bill 1 established a \$100M Behavioral Health Trust Fund to grow and fund programs annually
- Senate Bill 3 created a new regional behavioral health planning process statewide
- Senate Bill 88 created the Medicaid Trust Fund starting at \$10M
- \$230M total invested in affordable housing and homelessness solutions
- Senate Bill 267 addressed housing application fees and rental agreement transparency
- Extreme Risk Protection Order law expanded to allow law enforcement reporting
- Senate Bill 166 regarding changes to mental health hold laws was a big win

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, John Dodd

- The Mobile Crisis Team is now fully staffed on the clinician side
- First 12-week training academy completed for 9 new responders (480 total training hours)
- Next 12-week academy starts May 20th

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

- Medical Respite expanded by 10 additional beds

APD, CIU, and BSS Update

- Two coordinators retiring (Shannon Miera and Ben Melendrez)
- Two new MCT officers selected, pending transfer
- Transit safety officers are now under CIU and receiving CIT training
- New Neighborhood Engagement and Support Team added to CIU (4 officers + 1 sergeant)
- Next 40-hour CIT class April 29-May 2
- ECIT curriculum updated with DOJ-supported modules
- CIU reviewed 529 referrals last month, assigned 86, referred out 56

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

None – due to the absence of the host from the subcommittee.

MHRAC Final Discussion

We have a presenter for the May meeting, Christopher Ortiz, AFR EMS Division Chief. Chief Ortiz will be giving an update on the AFR Suboxone Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025

An Otter Transcript of the MHRAC meeting is available upon request; email bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov.