

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

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025

Via Zoom

## **Board Members in Attendance**

Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
Coty Maxwell	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Ryan Delaware	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Rachel Biggs	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Robert Salazar	Peer Support
Paula Burton	Peer Support
Mariela Ruiz-Angel	Georgetown Law
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Department
Dr. N. Duranceaux	Behavioral Sciences Section
David Ley	New Mexico Disability Rights

## **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; eleven of sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

## **Welcome First-Time Guests**

Kurtus Tenorio – Associate Director for Albuquerque Community Safety.

Javier Benavidez – Coalition for Safer Albuquerque

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – Rachel Biggs

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – David Ley

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

### **Public Comment**

Ilse Biel – A part of the Coalition for Safer Albuquerque, who is forming a non-profit.

- She talked about the displacement policy and how it is being executed. She gave a scenario from a video that was given to her by a community member.

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

None

### **Albuquerque Fire Rescue, Chief Chris Ortiz**

- AFR launched a new "Golden Opportunity Program" to administer pre-hospital suboxone to overdose patients
- New initiative to administer pre-hospital buprenorphine (suboxone) to overdose patients
- Patients must consent and agree to transport to a local service provider for continued care
- 10 patients have received suboxone so far out of ~60 overdose calls per month
- The goal is to break the cycle of overdose and connect patients to recovery services

### **Comprehensive Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) Update, Rodney McNease, MA**

Data Project to comply with CCBHC reporting requirements

- CCBHC is a funding model for behavioral outpatient programs designed to cover the costs of providing all outpatient services. As part of this project, a cost report was completed by UNMH Finance to determine the daily reimbursement rate per service per patient.
- CCBHC only applies to Medicaid patients. As part of providing enhanced reimbursement
- CCBHCs are required to report on mandatory data elements to demonstrate access to care and quality.
- The request to Data Governance is for resource allocation to meet data reporting requirements of the New Mexico Health Authority and CMS. This program should provide substantial financial benefits with enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for these patients.

### **Populations served by CCBHCs:**

Includes the full lifespan and all mental health and substance use disorders, including co-occurring diagnoses.

- Serves everyone for acute services, assessment, and triage.
- Works to transition, once stable, to an appropriate level of care (community / PCP)

### **A Lifespan-Focused Care Delivery Model:**

- A program that pays for the activities that expand and improve behavioral health care.
- Incentivizes the *right care* at the *right time*

### **A New Care Delivery Model:**

- Integrated, evidence-based addiction and mental health services
- Stringent criteria regarding access, quality reporting, staffing, and care coordination
- Funding to support the cost of improving services and expanding access

# A New Care Delivery Model



## **Benefits of CCBHC**

- Enhanced Payment for Behavioral Health Outpatient Service: CCBHC is based on a cost-based reimbursement model that is similar to FQHC reimbursement
- Compliance with Statewide Behavioral Health System Development Goals: The New Mexico Health Authority has chosen CCBHC as the vehicle to evolve and expand the Behavioral Health System in New Mexico. There is significant state interest in UNMH becoming a CCBHC, as we are the largest community provider of Behavioral Health in the state.
- Efficiency of Practice: The Stages model provides more timely access to services for patients and matches services based on patient need during the course of treatment. Resources are maximized, and greater throughput of patients is achieved.

## **CCBHC is a fundamental shift in the way we deliver behavioral health services.**

- Patient-centered and based on best practices.
- The CCBHC model provides for improved access with more efficient utilization of resources
- Creates sustainability for new programs and services because of the cost-based methodology.
- Positions UNMH at the forefront of Behavioral Health System change.

## **Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, John Dodd**

- ACS continues to expand staff and training, with 6 new responders transitioning to the field and 11 in a new academy
- Six new responders (3 behavioral health, 2 community, 1 supervisor) are completing field training
- Two new behavioral health responder supervisors hired
- All MCT clinician positions filled on the city side
- A new eleven-person academy class started, including six behavioral health and four community responders

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

- Gateway to Recovery accepted its first client and is taking referrals
- Working on becoming a licensed safe outdoor space
- Moving forward with the medical sobering contract

### **APD, CIU, and BSS Update**

- Two new MCT officers are finishing their training; we will have 4 MCT officers shortly.
- Over 500 referrals received last month
- Planning to incorporate more community presenters in the 40-hour CIT training course

### **Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update**

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

### **MHRAC Final Discussion**

- Justice Zamora to potentially present updates on House Bill 8 competency changes at future meeting
- Training & Info Subcommittee to follow up with the city on data requests regarding Solid Waste activities
- Anthony Goodwill would like to present on veterans' housing resources at the June meeting
- MHRAC to continue meeting as normal despite the end of the CASA settlement agreement

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2025

An Otter Transcript of the MHRAC meeting is available upon request; email [bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov](mailto:bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov).