

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
Coty Maxwell	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Rachel Biggs	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Bernice Varela	Crossroads for Women
Commander Gerard Bartlett	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Paula Burton	Peer Support
Jane Garland	NAMI
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Department
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom	Bernalillo County
Dr. Nicole Duranceaux	APD Behavioral Sciences Section
Robert Salazar	Peer Support
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 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; thirteen of the sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Angelica Pena Fernandez, MST Supervisor for Bilingual Teams at Faith Works

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

2nd Motion – Mary Perez

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

Public Comment

None

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

None

New Mexico's House Bill 8, Justice Zamora

- Expanded dangerousness criteria to include misdemeanors and additional felony charges
- Requires evaluators to assess civil commitment and AOT eligibility for incompetent defendants
- Added timelines for competency hearings (30 days for felonies, 10 days for misdemeanors in custody)
- Allows for community-based competency restoration, though no programs currently exist
- Criminal commitment criteria expanded to include more charges

Note: Due to the extensive nature of the significant material covered, please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to receive the complete transcript on this topic.

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams

- ACS graduated 12 new responders and has expanded to 65 responders total across various teams. They also have 12 more in the ACS academy who are about two weeks away from OJT.
- ACS has implemented a bilateral response model dividing the city into east and west sides
- ACS extended the street outreach team to 7 days/week
- Discussion took place with Dr. Wayne Lindstrom about potential integration with the 988 system, though logistical challenges remain.

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

- We have had our medical sobering provider on site this past week; we're expecting to be operational with our medical sobering center in the fall.
- A blitz for hiring will start soon to be able to staff up for that program.
- \$4M available from city/county for small/medium providers. It is defined as less than a \$500k operating budget annually.
- \$10M from the city for capital projects related to the opioid epidemic
- Solicitations open or opening soon, info on city/county procurement sites

APD, CIU, and BSS Update, Commander Bartlett, Sgt. Tinney, Sgt. Bludworth and Dr. Duranceaux

- We just tested for and selected another detective for our Mobile Crisis Team Coordinators.
- We also got our coordinators certified on HB93 and are working on their BIT Certification, which will help with our heavy training load coming at the end of summer and in the fall.
- In June, we had the busiest month with 601 new referrals; 128 were assigned. The majority were referred; of those, 54 were referred to ACS.
- Kudos to detectives Coty Maxwell and Jeff Jones, who went above and beyond in a case and helped someone get a restraining order. Unfortunately, that one they were not able to jail divert due to pending warrants. They were able to meet with him and get him into custody, and to make sure that he was seeing treatment while at MDC.

- Jeff Jones also provided training throughout the department on how to use Extreme Risk Firearm and Protection Order (ERFPO) because a lot of victims have been asking for it, and there has been some confusion, so we are helping the rest of the department secure those dangerous situations around domestic abuse and violence.
- We had to renew two SOPs, our APD Wellness and our BSS.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

- The SOPs from Policy & Procedure will be reduced from four weeks to 15 days.
- We discussed policies that are up for review that occasionally are not necessarily behavioral health-related and that are not necessarily relevant to the committee.

MHRAC Final Discussion

- Dr. Lindstrom touched on SB3, the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act. SB1, SB2, and SB3 were around creating a statewide behavioral health trust fund that was initially planned to be a billion dollars that would go into this trust that would generate an annual dividend.
- Dr. Lindstrom to coordinate forensic evaluator, Dr. Brown, to present at MHRAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Fathom Transcript of this MHRAC meeting is available upon request; email bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov.