

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members/Proxy in Attendance

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| Ellen Braden | Health, Housing, Homelessness |
| Mary Perez | UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences |
| Rachel Biggs | Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless |
| Cmdr. Gerard Bartlett/Sgt. Tinney | APD Crisis Intervention Division |
| Paula Burton | Peer Support |
| Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz | Albuquerque Fire Department |
| Dr. Nicole Duranceaux | APD Behavioral Sciences Section |
| Robert Salazar | Peer Support |
| Ryan Delaware | Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless |
| Wendy Linebrink-Allison | |

Board Members Absent

Mariela Ruiz-Angel
Bernice Varela
Dr. David Ley
Coty Maxwell
Jane Garland
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

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 the sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Kristin Drake –NMBH
Joseph Lopez – Deputy Director, OEM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Paula Burton

2nd Motion – Mary Perez

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

Public Comment

Ilse Biel – Questions the Encampment Policy and how it is being executed. She gave a scenario regarding a guitar that was removed from an encampment.

Rachel Biggs – suggested that the City Encampment Policy be put on the MHRAC sub-committee agenda for August 25, 2025.

New Member Nomination (If any)

None

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams

- Responded to over 4,000 calls in July, the highest volume month to date
- Transported 280 individuals directly to services
- Held hiring event on July 31st with over 20 qualified applicants
- 11 new responders finished the academy and are in on-the-job training
- Launched bilateral operations, splitting the city into east/west operational areas
- Opened new west side hub location in old fire station

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

- New providers operating different components:
 - YDI is now operating a family shelter
 - CPLC operating Women's Housing Navigation Center
 - Community Bridges is operating the First Responder Shelter
- Seeing the fruition of years of planning and work

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

- 490 referrals received in July, 102 cases signed
- ACS assisted with about 50 referrals
- Continuing outreach in the Central Corridor area
- Training the next group of National Guard members on crisis intervention
- Pushing back cadet CIT training to October to train current officers first
- Ongoing ECIT (Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team) classes

Competency Evaluation & Diversion Programs

- Dr. Bronwyn Neeser invited to present on competency evaluation process and diversion programs at next month's meeting
- County exploring new diversion programming options to replace LEAD program

Encampment Policy Concerns

- Public comment raised issues with the inconsistent enforcement of encampment policies by solid waste workers
- Suggestion to review policy again and potentially invite solid waste staff to the subcommittee meeting
- Noted challenges in getting accurate, non-emotional accounts of policy implementation

MHRAC Final Discussion

- Schedule encampment policy review for next subcommittee meeting (8/25/25 at 10 am)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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