

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026

Via Zoom

Board Members/Proxy in Attendance

Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Department
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom	Bernalillo County
Dr. David Ley	NM Solutions
Commander Bartlett/DC McElroy	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Scott Harmon	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Wendy Linebrink-Allison	Presbyterian Health Plan
Robert Salazar	Peer Support

Board Members Absent

Cmdr. Bartlett	Ryan Delaware
Dr. Duranceaux	Paula Burton
Mariela Ruiz-Angel	Rachel Biggs
Bernice Varela	Barbara Berry
Jane Garland	

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 they impact homelessness and mental health issues. We are also involved in training and policy; training is one area where we have had a tremendous impact, particularly on 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

Nine board members were in attendance, eight were absent.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Major Ryan Nelson, Albuquerque Police Department

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Mary Perez

2nd Motion – Wendy Linebrink-Allison

The MHRAC board members in attendance approved the minutes from the October 2025 meeting.

Public Comment

None

New Member Nomination

None

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Adam Erhard, Walter Adams & Jodie Esquibel

- ACS Growth: ACS is expanding services, with 311 calls up 80% and proactive engagements up 144%; transports up 31% in 2025. A new partnership with the DMV will provide on-site ID affidavits, removing a major barrier to services.
- Emergency Shelter Transports: 2,746 individuals transported since Nov 1, with a 92% increase in December vs. 2024.
- 311 Triage: Specialists in emergency comms triage 311 calls, transferring urgent cases to 911 to ensure geolocation is captured.

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

- All services (Men's, Women's, Family, Med Respite/Sobering, Recovery, First Responder Receiving, and West) are operational.
- Men's and Women's shelters are near capacity.
- The winter overflow shelter is also reaching capacity.

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

- CIU: MCTs are at full staffing (4 teams). An enhanced crisis intervention team (eCIT) course for 26 officers is scheduled. Waiting on the academy to approve the 40-hour CIT curriculum.
- BSS: The RFP for behavioral sciences was finalized, ensuring full staffing for officer support.
- AOT: New Mexico Solutions has the court contract for Assisted Outpatient Treatment, with ~10 active clients.

Training and Infoshare Subcommittee

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026

MHRAC Final Discussion

Ponderosa Place:

- Opened in November, providing housing for homeless families.
- Capacity: 78 families.
- Occupancy: 24 families (98 individuals), with expansion on hold pending plumbing repairs.

Recidivism Research:

- Bernalillo County is partnering with UNM on a cohort analysis of the 612-person "Familiar Faces" list.
- The goal is to design tailored interventions to reduce recidivism, building on prior research by Amalie McKee.

Legislative Threat:

- A new bill (sponsored by Antonio Maestas) proposes loosening involuntary commitment criteria. This is controversial, with concerns it will overwhelm the state's already limited hospital bed capacity.

SB3 Implementation & Funding

- Bernalillo County is the governing entity for SB3, using judicial districts as regional boundaries to align with existing planning structures.
- The county is using an Enhanced Sequential Intercept Model (ESIM) to develop its regional plan, focusing on the children's behavioral health system.
- Rationale: The adult system has improved since 2013, but the children's system, under CYFD, continues to erode.
- Goal: Identify 5 lifespan priorities for the regional plan, due in April.
- Early Access Funds: The County's joint proposal with the city (for the Mariposa program and APS gun violence prevention) was capped at \$2M, despite being told to submit more.
- Gap Funding Formula: The state's formula for the \$110M gap fund was approved, allocating Bernalillo County only ~\$12M.
- Impact: This is a third of the ~\$36M the county would receive under a per-capita model, creating a significant funding shortfall.
- Advocacy: The committee will advocate for the Behavioral Health Trust to be fully funded to ensure long-term stability.
- Recidivism & "Familiar Faces" Research
- Bernalillo County is partnering with UNM on a cohort analysis of the 612-person "Familiar Faces" list.
- Goal: Use data to design tailored services for specific cohorts and test their effectiveness in reducing recidivism.
- This builds on prior research by Amalie McKee (APD) and Dr. Peter Vehler, who identified the need for multi-agency data to understand the "recidivism trap."
- Challenge: Single-agency data is insufficient. For example, a long wait time between APD contacts could be due to an intervening ACS engagement or hospitalization.
- Legislative Update
- A new bill (sponsored by Antonio Maestas) proposes revising involuntary commitment criteria (43-1-3) by defining "harm to self" and "harm to others."
- Concerns: Capacity: The state's limited hospital bed capacity will be overwhelmed without a plan to increase it.
- Policy Direction: This is seen by some as a "slippery slope" toward re-institutionalization, a policy pushed by the federal government.
- Action: The committee encourages members to monitor and testify on this bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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