

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

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

Via Zoom

## **Board Members/Proxy in Attendance**

Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Department
A/Commander Matt McElroy	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Dr. David Ley	New Mexico Solutions
Dr. Nicole Duranceaux	APD Behavioral Science Section
Scott Harmon	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Bernice Varela	Cross Roads for Women
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Jane Garland	NAMI
Robert Salazar	Peer Representative

## **Board Members Absent**

Barbara Berry  
Mariela Ruiz-Angel  
Mary Perez  
Rachel Biggs  
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom  
Wendy Linebrink-Allison

## **Attendance of Board Members**

Ten board members were in attendance; six were absent.

## **MHRAC Meeting Discussion**

The meeting focused on discussing the future of the Mental Health and Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC), with Dr. David Ley, former co-chair and Executive Director of New Mexico Solutions, facilitating the conversation.

- David addressed the future and viability of the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) following the elected co-chair's resignation and ongoing lack of an official chair.
- David reported that attempts to establish MHRAC through city ordinance had been unsuccessful, raising concerns about the committee's lack of formal authority and declining attendance over the past six months.
- Some community members, including Paula Burton and Robert Salazar, expressed concerns about feeling heard by the city and losing influence since the DOJ's departure.
- David acknowledged the committee's 10-year history of significant achievements in mental health, police, and homelessness issues, particularly highlighting its impact on peer communities and the development of programs.

- David concluded by discussing potential impacts on APD and other city departments if MHRAC were to disband or lose functionality, suggesting the current meetings might become unnecessary without proper ordinance or CASA support.
- The group agreed to vote on whether to disband MHRAC.
- Brenda Vigil Gallegos completed a roll call and poll of board members to record their official votes for the meeting minutes.
- After a formal vote, the MHRAC board members in attendance voted 6-2 to disband MHRAC, with two abstentions (see below).
- David Ley will send an email to all MHRAC members and attendees describing the decision to disband, the process, and a summary of MHRAC's accomplishments.

### **Disband MHRAC**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – Dr. David Ley

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – Bernice Varela

### **Additional Board Members' Vote to Disband MHRAC**

Barbara Berry – Absent

**Ellen Braden – YAY**

**Chief Chris Ortiz – YAY**

A/Commander Matt McElroy – **Abstain**

**Jane Garland – YAY**

Mariela Ruiz-Angel – Absent

Mary Perez – Absent

**Dr. Nicole Duranceaux – NAY**

Paula Burton – **Abstain**

Rachel Biggs – Absent

**Robert Salazar – NAY**

**Scott Harmon – YAY**

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom – Absent

Wendy Linebrink-Allison - Absent

### **Public Comment**

- Jodie expressed gratitude for MHRAC's collaboration with ACS.
- Amalie highlighted the importance of transparency
- Paula expressed concerns about decreased community input and feeling unheard by the city since DOJ involvement ended, suggesting that MRAC may have reached its useful course
- David acknowledged Paula's feedback and noted that the chair position requirements may be limited to community members rather than city employees.

### **MHRAC Final Discussion**

- The conversation ended with David thanking all participants for their service and encouraging them to consider involvement with the Civilian Police Oversight Authority (CPOA) going forward.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.**