

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 15, 2019**

**In Attendance:**

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day  
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee  
Ellen Braden, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services  
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative  
David Ley, NM Solutions  
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU  
Paula Burton, Peer Representative  
David Webster, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health  
Betty Whiton, NAMI  
Bridget McCoy, MD, UNM Department of Psychiatry  
Laura Nguyen, Adult Protective Services  
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division  
George Mercer, Albuq. Health Care for the Homeless  
Detective Matt Tinney, APD Crisis Intervention Unit

**Non-Voting members:**

Deputy Chief E. Garcia  
Sergeant D. Dosal  
Scribe: Lori Cruz, APD

**Absent:**

James Burton, Peer Representative  
Johnny Martinez, NMVIC/FIC  
Nancy Koenigsberg, Disability Rights NM  
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM. A quorum was met at time of start.

**Welcome first time guests:**

Girard Sanchez, NMVIC  
Amy Owen, Therapist, recently moved from Las Cruces, stay at home mom

**Approval of meeting minutes**

There was a motion made by David Webster to approve the minutes as written. The motion was second by George Mercer and approved as written.

**Public Comment (two minutes per person, 15 minutes total)**

A neighborhood association is concerned about a homeless individual on Orchard Street. Would like to know if there is a handout that can be distributed explaining the protocol. Neighbors uncomfortable having the individual there.

**(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- A: Ellen Braden: Both APD and AFR personnel carry resource information.
- Q: Is there something to post on a door; something that would outline what to expect if the police come? What you need to do? Public should know the process.
- A: Casey Bailey: If there is a "No Trespassing" Sign posted, police can remove the individual. If there is not a sign and they are on public property, the police cannot remove him/her.
- C: Ellen Braden: We handle the resource information
- Q: Danny Whatley: What do you do if people camping on the streets?
- A: Casey Bailey: If there is not a "No Trespassing" sign, police cannot remove the individual.
- C: Danny Whatley: Need buy in from owner if private property.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: It is dependent on who is asking. If the request is coming from a business, we have the authority to remove the individual.

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- C: Danny Whatley: The homeless encampment protocol is coming. Just need to have the same information. Talk is that it will be challenged as soon as it's out.
- C: Ellen Braden: Maybe as part of the larger Homeless Initiative we could put something out.
- C: Danny Whatley: Not too many citations are being issued anymore for those living on the streets. So many were not showing up for court so another citation was then being issued for failing to appear. Many were failing to appear because they have no means of transportation. Now they had two citations: trespassing and failing to appear.
- C: Rick Miera: And the failure to appear is a more serious charge.
- C: Danny Whatley: The Mayor is working on initiatives to remedy some of that. My own feeling is that it won't be effective. Finding the line between: do we want to help them or have officers arrest them. They are the faceless folks out there. Homeless will now be forced to the forefront with the Mayor's initiatives.

**City Homeless Initiative Update by Carol Pierce and Lisa Huval, Family and Community Services:**

Carol Pierce, Director of Family and Community Services: Thank you for allowing us to be here. We should try to be here on a more regular basis. We are here to give you an update on the Westside Emergency Housing Center. The idea is getting people off the street to more permanent housing. Would like to take the opportunity to thank The Rock, Hopeworks, and Rhubarb and Elliot Cafe for helping out over the holidays and inclement weather. The Rock stayed open later and both the Rock and the Rhubarb and Elliot Café took food out to the Westside Emergency Housing Center. The agencies made a difference. As stated previously, the location of the Westside Emergency Housing Center is not ideal. It is 20 miles out of town. We have added an additional pick up time of 4:00 p.m. at Coronado Park. We knew we needed an earlier time, especially due to the weather. We are looking at the weekend times. There are gaps where food is available. The question: how to get food out to the west side. In March, will expand their hours. Heading home flexible hours. Church based organizations have been helping with food. We have had to do some shifting in the budget to stay open. In the past we were only open during the coldest times of the year but because there are not a lot of shelters available we expanded the time. Lisa will now discuss housing and the move from the west side.

Lisa Huval, Deputy Director, Housing and Homelessness Programs, Family and Community Services: The Westside Emergency Housing Center is not ideal, however, as an immediate solution, we are expanding the time it is open. We have a \$28 Million capital outlay to design and construct a year round facility in town. We had a handout that summarizes the act. We will provide that handout to MHRAC. Looking for a more central location to serve as a move to more permanent housing. We are at the conceptual stage. As far as number of beds, services provided: we are still not there yet. Facility must compliment and integrate current services. Know system and array of providers. How to integrate and expand. However, when in shelter, still homeless. Starting point for some for permanent housing. Shelter can have a shelter first approach with the idea of helping folks move into housing. How do we design the shelter: will be looking to all of you to help design. Want to promote dignity and safety. As low barrier as possible. Need to determine what those barriers are. Why some can't go into a shelter? Some may have pets. Need for animal kennels. Is there a behavioral health component? Working in tandem with the County. Talking less about the behavioral health component because the County is working on that. Ours is more homeless component.

**(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- Q: Danny Whatley: Does the \$28 million include operating costs?

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- A: Lisa Huval: No, it's a capital outlay for design and construction only.
- C: Danny Whatley: It will be costly to run a \$28 million structure.
- C: Lisa Huval: We have funds to operate the Westside Emergency Housing Center, we plan on moving those funds over to the new shelter; approximately \$5 Million. We may not get the full \$28 Million. That is the amount we hope to get.
- Q: Danny: Any idea on the size of the facility?
- A: Lisa Huval: No.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Will it be a one stop shop?
- A: Lisa Huval: No. Not on the table. A one stop shop has never been on the table.
- C: Danny Whatley: I have been in meeting where it was.
- C: Lisa Huval: After our trip to San Antonio, we did not come back feeling we needed a Haven for Hope. We need to build a shelter that meets needs but help connect with services. Know we need an emergency bed piece.
- C: Carol Pierce: Know there are a lot of people who are not getting sheltered. We have added questions to our west side shelter to help determine. Also adding questions to see why people choose to remain unsheltered. Need more housing vouchers. We know people need to be safely housed. 10 months to be lined up. Need more housing vouchers. 1,000 more annually, \$13 Million. Mix of single and family. Started "One Albuquerque Housing Fund" to get folks in the community to contribute. Another mechanism to get more money. Try to capture energy from the community. See how that will work.
- C: David Ley: Have seen the voucher process ebb and flow politically not based on whether or not the money is there. The people who need vouchers don't get them. Important to encourage the right way to administer vouchers.
- C: Lisa Huval: There is a difference between local housing dollars and HUB rules. We have more ley way with state.
- C: David Ley: It is a complicated process; our ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams had much more access to vouchers in the past than they do now.

Lisa Huval: The Mayor has created the One Albuquerque Homeless Advisory Council. Comprised of service providers, neighborhood associations and residents and those who have experienced homelessness. 40 members. Way to secure information and hear about what's going on in the community. What are solutions? Informed community members. One of the core groups will help in planning of housing facility. A much needed entity in our community.

(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:

- C: Danny Whatley: MHRAC has received complaints from providers and neighborhood associations that they were not included. It's a little late coming.
- C: Lisa Huval: There is still a lot of work to do. The real work is ahead of us. Hope is as those folks participate they will change their mind.
- Q: What is the secret word to get in to the meetings?
- A: Lisa Huval: There is a Committee Meeting tomorrow but it is not an open meeting. But more important part will be more for the subcommittees.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Will Ellen Braden be a part of the committee?
- A: Lisa Huval: No, Ellen will not be a part of it. Gilbert will be.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Will there be a report back to us?
- A: Lisa Huval: Yes.

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Lisa Huval: Homeless encampment ordinance: Not much movement. Got initial feedback from different public agencies. Committee meeting this Friday. APD and COAST is a part of this. Do not know time frame for moving this forward.

(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:

- Q: Danny Whatley: Are you aware that under CASA, MHRAC is required to review policies for homelessness prior to it becoming policy?
- A: Lisa Huval: Yes, right now just a draft version.
- C: Danny Whatley: APD started developing policies like they were in a vacuum. Now there is a policy review board. You might want to learn from them and do it right.
- C: Lisa Huval to David Ley regarding housing vouchers: Angela Mayer is the primary person to respond to housing issues.
- C: David Ley: The beauty of smart phones: staff has informed me that there are homes available now but applications will not be available until March.
- C: Lisa Huval: Not too sure. There is also a Housing Authority. We can meet separately to discuss this.
- Q: Dr. McCoy: Will the shelter be one building or more?
- A: Lisa Huval: One location, one building.

**Discussion and Review – Co-Chair Year End Report**

The Sub-Committee Year End Reports were approved as written. They will be posted on the MHRAC Website. Danny Whatley gave an overview of the Co-Chair Year End Report which he emailed to MHRAC earlier that day.

**Discussion – Direction and Goals for MHRAC in 2019**

Danny Whatley asked chairs from each of the Sub-Committees to share 2019 goals.

Information Sub-Committee:

Dr. Bridget McCoy on behalf of Nancy Koenigsberg: We were unable to meet last month due to the holidays. Our focus for 2019 will be of SOP 2-19 and on MCT. We also plan to review SOP 2-16 to determine how records are retained and how they are shared. Nancy Koenigsberg is on a working group with the County that is reviewing privacy and confidentiality of records on individuals going into and being released from detention in order to propose future amendments. Researchers were unable to get access to behavioral health issues to help determine recidivism. David Ley is also a part of this working group.

Training Sub-Committee:

David Ley: We were unable to meet last month due to the holidays. We will be meeting Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> instead of Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. We still see lingering issues with CNT/SWAT. The lieutenant in charge of CNT and SWAT seemed very open and receptive to getting curricula. Our Sub-Committee informed him that a needs assessment was required. We have never heard back from them.

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(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:

- C: Deputy Chief Garcia: advised him to put CNT/SWAT on the agenda for the upcoming meeting and he would get the necessary personnel there.
- Q: David Ley asked why MHRAC has to work so hard to get the City to do its part.
- C: Deputy Chief Garcia: reiterated that he would get the necessary personnel including himself there. He stated that CNT/SWAT was not in his command structure. He also informed MHRAC that CNT/SWAT now has an administrative lieutenant – Lieutenant Luke Languit.
- C: Danny Whatley: recommended that Deputy Chief Garcia, Deputy Chief Medina and Lieutenant Languit attend the meeting.
- C: David Ley: stated that it is the Committee's jobs to advise not command.

Danny Whatley: Another issue to consider: AFR is not under CASA. What trainings are they going through? Maybe get their people in.

David Ley: CNM is still an opaque issue.

(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:

- Q: David Ley: Is CNM certified to conduct state certified trainings?
- C: Detective Matt Tinney: The commander of the academy would like CIU to go teach 40 hours there at the CNM academy. Then once their training is completed we would get them back and do the normal trainings.
- Q: David Ley: Very confused. Thought CNM was conducting the training. So are they teaching or what? Keep getting told that CNM is going to teach the approved curriculum. Curriculum that we have already approved. But again, we have already paid people to write and teach the curriculum. Why are we now also paying CNM?
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: Will try to get you some clarification.

Paula Burton: Definite questions for state, CNM and city. Want to continue evaluating training. We need to finish reviewing all curriculums. Have to ensure we have completed all of it. Ensure that teaching is similar. Interactions with people who are having a behavioral health crisis are being treated the same by all. Committee needs to look more closely at interaction with police force. How to bring understanding to all sides.

Resource Sub-Committee:

Ellen Braden: We are not going to be so reliant on resource cards. Looking towards warm hand offs and resources. Will be coming to staffing. Officers may know where more focused resources. Where it is more helpful to the officers.

Danny Whatley: Officers do a tour of The Rock as part of their CIT Training. This has helped make officers more comfortable here. We even had an officer come by today and drop off a donation. Maybe it would be a good idea to expand the tours.

Ellen Braden: We, as the City need to ensure that when we find things that are not helping, that we have other avenues available.

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**Report and update from CIU, APD and Dr. Rosenbaum**

Dr. Rosenbaum reported that ECHO Downtown has a launch date of early March. There was an Albuquerque Journal article regarding APD's CIT ECHO Project. He has an upcoming meeting with APD Command Staff concerning future behavioral health initiatives. There was a question of what ECHO stands for/means. Detective Matt Tinney responded that ECHO stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes. APD's version is a videoconferencing project that conducts extended case briefings of encounters between police and people experiencing behavioral health crises.

Assistant City Attorney, Lindsey Van Meter was present to answer any questions, if needed.

**Report and update from C.O.A.S.T**

Per Detective Cassandra Bailey: The newest COAST employee has finished seven (7) weeks of On the Job Training (OJT). The section is on up to 5 fulltime employees.

Outreach was held in the Southwest Area last Tuesday. Our COAST Unit made contact with 10 individuals and provided resources during a community outreach event at Coors and Central. COAST, Block by Block, First Nations, and Healthcare for the Homeless were all the agencies that participated and helped provide materials such as resource cards, bus passes, food, and individual assessments. In addition, depending on individual needs, blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, hats and hygiene kits were provided as well. This is the first of many outreach opportunities to come in this area. Block by Block continued to provide services until 3 p.m. cleaning up bus stops and sidewalks in the area.

**Report and update from sub-committees:**

**Information Sub-Committee:**

No additional information to report see **Discussion – Direction and Goals for MHRAC in 2019** above.

**Training Sub-Committee:**

No additional information to report see **Discussion – Direction and Goals for MHRAC in 2019** above.

**Resource Sub-Committee:**

No additional information to report see **Discussion – Direction and Goals for MHRAC in 2019** above.

**MHRAC Final Discussion:**

Danny Whatley mentioned the Point in Time Count. Stated that the presence of law enforcement is detrimental. Sergeant Dosal agreed that the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness feel it's better if law enforcement is not present however COAST has been attending the meetings. They have attended two meetings to date. COAST will not be taking part in the count.

Per Danny Whatley: 2016 Data: there were 1302 homeless adults and 4,500 homeless children in Albuquerque.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM