

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 18, 2019

In Attendance:

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day
Detective Matt Tinney, APD Crisis Intervention Unit
Gilbert Ramirez, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services
David Ley, NM Solutions
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU
David Webster, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health
Bridget McCoy, MD, UNM Department of Psychiatry
James Burton, Peer Representative
Paula Burton, Peer Representative
Laura Nguyen, Albuquerque Ambulance
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.

Non-Voting members:

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

Absent:

Johnny Martinez, NMVIC/FIC
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee
Betty Whiton, NAMI
George Mercer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless
Laura Johnson, Michael Armstrong Law Offices
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was met at time of start.

Welcome first time guests:

Danny Whatley gave a recap of the duties and responsibilities of MHRAC to the first time guests.

Maxwell Kauffman, Assistant Public Defender, State of New Mexico
Julie Jaramillo, Process Improvement Analyst, APD, Accountability and Oversight
Brandi Madrid, New Home-Visit Detective, CIU

Approval of meeting minutes

There was a motion made by Paula Burton to approve the minutes as written. The motion was second by Gilbert Ramirez. The minutes were approved as written.

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

Danny Whatley: He has been helping out the family of the individual killed on Second Street. He was a regular here and a volunteer at Health Care for the Homeless. He had just left Health Care for the Homeless and was waiting for his ride on the street corner. There was a car accident in front of where he was standing. He was a casualty of the accident. Homelessness is not about politics it's about human beings.

Deputy Chief Garcia: The 22nd Lateral Class will be graduating on Friday, June 21st at 1:00 p.m. There will be a meet and greet with refreshments following the graduation. All are welcome to attend.

Detective Matt Tinney: Informed MHRAC members that he is on the promotion list for sergeant and will be stepping down from MHRAC. Thanked Deputy Chief Garcia for allowing him to sit on the board.

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Detective Tinney then recommended Detective Cassandra Bailey as his replacement. Detective Bailey has been an officer for 15 years. She is currently a Home Visit Detective in CIU. She is very interested in the position. Detective Tinney thanked the board for all their support and commended MHRAC for being instrumental in changes in the department.

Danny Whatley thanked Detective Tinney and pointed out that he had been an amazing partner for this group. Being a former law enforcement officer, Danny Whatley understands the difficulty in this. He then asked if there were any other nominations.

Maxwell Kauffman expressed interest in being on the board. MHRAC's target population is part of his clientele.

Danny Whatley explained that the CASA specifies representatives for the board. A Crisis Intervention Certified Responder must be included. He then went on to state that there is another open spot. Danny then asked the board if there were any objections to Maxwell Kauffman's addition to the board. New board member was voted on and approved. He then asked if there were any objections to Detective Tinney's replacement (Detective Bailey). At this time Sergeant Dosal informed the board that they had asked all the coordinators and the detectives for recommendations. They all agreed that Detective Bailey would make a good representative. Detective Bailey is outspoken and is also a certified C.A.R.E (Child Abuse Response Evaluator) Officer. She then thanked Detective Bailey for agreeing to be on the board. The board then voted on and approved Detective Bailey as Detective Tinney's replacement on the board.

Homeless Encampment Update by Lisa Huval, Deputy Director, FCS

Lisa Huval provided the following update on the homeless encampment initiative. Began drafting a policy for homeless encampment. Internally there was already a process for responding to calls regarding encampments on public property. It was initially drafted as an ordinance. It was presented to various community groups. Some of the comments/questions/concerns were as follows: one comment was this would put on a path to criminalize homeless, how would we store items, how will outreach work, concern that the storage of personal items would become very expensive. A group went to Seattle to see how they handle homelessness. They have a population of 5,000. Realized we are not ready to propose a homeless encampment ordinance or protocol. We don't know enough about it. We still have Sebastian doing his job going out to encampments, providing resources to them. He posts a notice. He contacts Solid Waste for removal. He doesn't normally need police involvement. We have expanded our Westside Shelter hours to 24 hours on the weekends. We are now offering additional services at the shelter. We provide some medical services. Beginning this Monday for a two week period the Westside Shelter will be open 24/7. We have money for housing vouchers. Citizens will be voting on a bond for monies for a shelter in the downtown area.

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

- C: Isle Biel: Concerned with the way the encampment policy is looking at the moment. People are becoming more destabilized by asking them to move from one area to another. Some cannot be in an enclosed shelter.
- Q: Isle Biel: Isn't there a way to have an area that they can have their encampments? Also, there are a lot of people living in the streets that would go to the shelter but have no way to get to Coronado Park.
- A: Lisa Huval: We have a contract with Health Care for the Homeless. They just started doing pick up and drop offs at the second location.

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- C: Voiced concern with contacting Solid Waste for removal of encampment property.
- A: Lisa Huval: Solid Waste does not come in until the encampment is abandoned. Sebastian will go out on the last day and if individuals explain or point out what they don't want, Sebastian will then call Solid Waste to remove those items.
- C: Lisa Huval: We have plans to go to Camp Hope in Las Cruces and look at that model and see how it works. We think having a shelter at a better location will help. We do understand we are moving them from area to area.
- C: Paula Burton: I believe we are better served by having smaller shelters scattered around instead of in one big shelter. There is a stigma to homelessness. One big shelter is not really helpful to the homeless.
- A: Lisa Huval: We already have scattered or disbursed shelters. The \$14 million to be voted on will be for one shelter. One with an access point for services. Will have a case manager who would offer resources. Will not be a one stop shop. We haven't figured out how many beds or what services will be offered.
- Q: Lisa Chavez: Will Sebastian be providing a contact number for those who have questions.
- Q: Matt Tinney: Will there be any connection to the Resource Reentry Center? Maybe provide hotel vouchers?
- C: Lisa Huval: Health Care for the Homeless will transport in addition to the 2 pick-up locations they already have.
- C: Danny Whatley: The Mayor is concerned about the services that are being provided to the immigrants. They are using existing resources. Will cut in to services we are providing like the Westside Shelter.
- C: Rob Nelson: Unless you are one of the providers, you cannot get access to vouchers.
- A: Lisa Huval: Supporting Housing Coalition of NM does have housing vouchers. There are also contractors who can provide those vouchers, however, we have not yet selected those contractors. There are vouchers that do not have a limit and rapid release vouchers. Will need to talk about this.
- Q: James Burton: What are we doing to educate the public about the bond and the plans for the shelter, the cost, and what our ideas for the shelter are?
- A: Lisa Huval: We are just now trying to figure these things out.
- Q: Paula Burton: Can you come back in August and give us more of an understanding of this bond and be able to answer our basic questions?
- A: Lisa Huval: Yes, I am happy to come back in August.
- C: David Ley: Would like an update.

Danny Whatley asked Isle Biel to give an update on the Tiny Houses. Isle Biel: There will be a community meeting this coming Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Albuquerque Indian Center (which is also the site for the tiny village). Ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for beginning of October. Entire construction must be complete before anyone can move in. Looking at a time line of August of next year.

Report and update from CIU, APD and Dr. Rosenbaum

Lt. Dietzel: Our new clinician is onboard. We also have two new detectives. We will also be training two new MCT officers and one new MCT Clinician beginning next week. We are waiting on Hopeworks to hire one additional MCT clinician. MCTs still responding to priority one calls. The contract with Hopeworks limits response to priority one calls only. Would like to have this expanded during the next contract negotiations. Lieutenant Dietzel then went on to discuss paragraph 115 of the CASA. We are

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still not there yet. Would like to know how long you want to review training curricula, especially with no response from the sub-committee?

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

- C: Danny Whatley: there is still not really a clear formalized process for MHRAC to review these policies.
- C: Lt. Dietzel: Just the policies I have direct control of. There has to be some kind of standard.
- C: Paula Burton: I would like to suggest 2 months to review and then see the final. Need to ensure positive and supportive, trying to make sure language is not stigmatizing. Would like to see it 2 months in advance. Send it to us, then have the meeting and then have it until the next month.
- C: Sgt. Dosal: With the Training Sub-Committee only meeting every other month that would cause a delay. You are all volunteering and are very busy. Just a response to the emails would help.
- C: Lt. Dietzel: I think we can do a better job of telling you when we need it.
- C: Paula Burton: In the past we would send letter to Dr. Rosenbaum and would not get a response.

Detective Tinney presented the BSS Update for Dr. Rosenbaum: The chief is very supportive of Dr. Rosenbaum wanting to hire a new clinician for BSS. The Scion grant has been submitted. BSS will launch SCION without the grant and has a kickoff scheduled for June 27th for the peer support team.

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

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

Rob Nelson: The Mayor joined us on Outreach. He has a better understanding of what COAST does. We don't just do outreach. He got a new understanding of what our needs are. This week we are going out every single day these next two weeks so that numbers will improve to justify the Westside shelter staying open 24/7. For an effective shelter we shouldn't say you have to be out by 6:00 a.m. and find somewhere to go.

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

- C: Gilbert Ramirez: we are averaging in the high 280's.
- Q: Laura Nguyen: Is the Westside Shelter handicapped accessible?
- A: Gilbert Ramirez: Yes, we even have individual areas for even oxygen tanks, bed that can lower, etc.
- C: Danny Whatley: I have a success story for COAST. There was an 80 year old woman with mental health issues. I called COAST. They were able to locate her family out of state, get a bus voucher, and find someplace to store her belongings. A COAST collaboration and coordination between all entities.
- C: David Ley: HCH keep impressive statistics. 80% of homeless have been in NM 5 to 10 years. They are our people.

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Report and update from sub-committees:

Training Sub-Committee:

David Ley: Will be meeting on Monday. We received the Needs Assessment from CNT. We will be following up on that on Monday. We have been reviewing curricula.

Information Sharing/Resource Sub-Committee:

Lieutenant Dietzel: We rescheduled our Tuesday meeting to today at the FAC. We waited until 10:45. No one showed. Apologized for the confusion. We will resume our usual Tuesday meeting at FCS and get back to working on Certificates for Evaluation and Resource Cards. We are down to one box of resource cards.

MHRAC Final Discussion to include July MHRAC Meeting:

July MHRAC Meeting:

- Motion made by David Ley to cancel July's meeting. The motion was second by Laura Nguyen. The motion was approved.

Notice of Schedule Court Conferences:

- Reference emails forwarded to MHRAC
- Danny Whatley: Two meetings have been scheduled (see email). Both meetings held will be at the Domenici Building. Expect tight security. Very strict. The hearings are open to the public.
- Lindsey Van Meter: The July 16th hearing will be a one hour hearing. Much more abbreviated. The August hearing will run all day. Dr. Ginger is expected to be present at this hearing. All will be given an opportunity to present. The hearing will cover IMR 9, data and use of force.
- Danny Whatley: Will need to change our August MHRAC Meeting to the second Tuesday of that month (August 13th).
- David Ley: The board meeting for Health Care for the Homeless is on Tuesday, August 13th. George Mercer and I will not be able to attend MHRAC.
- Danny Whatley: Need ideas for amazing success stories about the CASA. Media tends to report only the negative. Maybe decide on an editorial.
- Maxwell Kauffman: If we approach them (media) in a certain way, it can be a positive. Knows Mary Lynn Roper. She might be interested.
- Danny Whatley: The second hearing is the important hearing. He then mentioned the other email he had forwarded to MHRAC that had a letter attached from Peter Cubra. He is just asking that Judge Brown continue what Judge Brack did.

NAMI National Conference:

- Lieutenant Dietzel: Asked Sergeant Dosal if she wanted to speak about her upcoming trip.
- Sergeant Dosal: Will be attending the NAMI National Conference. Will be presenting NAMI with a check for a little over \$2,300 (proceeds from the sale of the APD Mental Health Awareness Patches).

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM