

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

**In Attendance:**

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day  
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee  
Betty Whiton, NAMI  
Gilbert Ramirez, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services  
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division  
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU  
David Webster, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health  
Bridget McCoy, MD, UNM Department of Psychiatry  
George Mercer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless  
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.  
Laura Nguyen, Albuquerque Ambulance  
Laura Johnson, Michael Armstrong Law Offices  
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative  
Maxwell Kauffman, Law Offices of the Public Defender  
Paula Burton, Peer Representative

**Non-Voting members:**

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

**Absent:**

Johnny Martinez, NMVIC/FIC  
Cassandra Bailey, Detective, CIU  
James Burton, Peer Representative  
David Ley, New Mexico Solutions

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM. A quorum was met at time of start.

**Welcome first time guests:**

Katherine Lowe, Subclass Attorney, McClendon Lawsuit  
Officer Coty Maxwell, MCT, APD  
Officer Dorian Dixon, MCT, APD  
Detective Albert Romero, CIU, APD  
Rosie Youngblood, MCT Clinician, Hopeworks

**Approval of meeting minutes**

There was a motion made by Rick Miera to approve the minutes as written. The motion was second by Dave Webster. The minutes were approved as written.

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

As history: A copy of an OpEd "Mental Illness is Not Synonymous with Mass Shooting" written by Betty Ann Whiton for the Albuquerque Journal was sent to MHRAC on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Danny Whatley stated that the article was amazingly written. Betty Ann Whiton mentioned that it is important that the public be educated about mental illness.

Robert Salazar stated that on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, MATS, the Mayor, Deputy Chief Garcia, the BCSO Sheriff and the DA would be announcing the expansion of the new program: LEAD (Law

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Enforcement Assisted Diversion). There will be a press conference. Sam Howarth from the Bernalillo County's Department of Behavioral Health Services will be in attendance. Robert Salazar will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment.

#### **Update by Lisa Huval, Deputy Director, FCS**

Lisa Huval wanted to provide a quick update. Number one priority: anyone experiencing homelessness should have access to a bed. The City currently provides year round service at the Westside Emergency Housing Center. This is not a long term solution. It is what we can do for now. UNMH and Health Care for the Homeless are providing medical services at the Westside. Through Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) tax dollars, we have case managers available to begin working with those at the Westside Shelter. It is more than just a place to sleep. There are now three pickup and drop off locations: Coronado Park, Hope Works Day Shelter and God's Warehouse (all with various days and times). The City is looking for an additional location potentially on the Westside. The City is hoping for voter approval of a bond of \$985,000. In the interim, they are working on preliminary plans on the architectural design. We will be sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for the plan. Even if the bond does not get approved, we will continue with the architectural plan. Year round housing is not a solution to homelessness. We have RFPs for vouchers and for rapid rehousing. At the Westside Center we are averaging 150 individuals per night who are experiencing homelessness. We have been able to assist two through the One Albuquerque Housing Fund and Supporting Housing Coalition; though not long term.

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

- Q: Is there any consideration to keeping the Westside open another year.
- A: Lisa Huval: We can't afford to build a new shelter while operating another shelter. The budget we are using to operate the Westside shelter we hope to use for the new shelter. Currently looking at a 300 bed shelter. We have a number of factors we have to consider: how many are we housing; how many are we averaging; what the optimal number of beds necessary; etc. Realistically with \$14 million we have enough to build one site.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Do you think you can build a 300 bed facility with a \$14 Million budget?
- A: Lisa Huval: Yes, a shelter with space for some services. Not a campus. Will have office space for others to come in and offer services. It will be enough for 300 beds and supportive services.
- Q: Danny Whatley: So, as you and Carol once described, it would be a one stop shop?
- A: Lisa Huval: No. We never discussed a one stop shop. It would be more like a hub with bathrooms where you can come and sleep and be set up with a provider. It would be 24/7 and will be set up to do assessments. A place to walk in the door and have a safe place to sleep and connect to services.
- C: Danny Whatley: I would discourage the City from having a kitchen and providing food. There are plenty of agencies already providing food. Building a kitchen would be a huge expense.
- C: Lisa Huval: We are not stuck on the idea of a kitchen. We have just been listening to some providers.
- C: Danny Whatley: Adding a kitchen would be a huge expense for the City. I, as well as several other providers, have voiced our opposition to a 300 bed shelter. It is unsafe. There are those who will try to take over areas (beds) in the shelter. It would be better to build a number of smaller shelters scattered throughout.
- Q: Maxwell Kauffman: Has a location been determined?
- A: Lisa Huval: Not yet. There will be some work with the community before we start building.

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**Recap of MHRAC Presentation to the Northwest Community Policing Council by Rick Miera:**

The Northwest Community Policing Council asked a member of MHRAC to come and speak. There were a number of questions. They were given a history of MHRAC. The presentation ended on time. As just mentioned there were a lot of questions. They asked how MHRAC was able to get a quorum for all of the meetings. They are willing to come and make referrals to the organizations they are dealing with. James Lewis attended and gave the introduction. It was pretty well attended. They think pretty highly of the MHRAC Board. Also in attendance were 40 plus officers.

**Review and Discuss the Proposed Report for the Status Conference Hearing on August 20, 2019:**

Danny Whatley stated that this upcoming Status Conference is the first real status conference. It will be held next Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Domenici Building. Judge Browning will be presiding. Attendees will need to arrive early because it will take a while to get through security. Both Danny Whatley and Rick Miera are on the Agenda to discuss the collaboration. They will cover training, resources, and information sharing policies. In the last IMR Report, Dr. Ginger raved about MHRAC. MHRAC has been in a slump; however, there seems to be a number of items coming down the pike. Board members were encouraged to attend. It is believed that Judge Browning will be good for CASA.

**City Council Award Presentation to MHRAC by Betty Whiton:**

In May of this year, City Council asked Betty Whiton if she would attend the City Council Meeting and receive the Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation on behalf of BHI, NAMI and MHRAC. Betty Whiton in turn presented the Proclamation to Danny Whatley and Rick Miera.

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

Dr. Rosenbaum, Behavioral Sciences: Things are moving along well. SCION was officially launched. It is an officer self-care initiative run similar to ECHO. Officers talk about mental health challenges. Dr. Rosenbaum is working with APD Academy Staff as well on officer self-care: more intensive intervention.

Lieutenant Dietzel: There will be a CIT basic in September. Lieutenant Dietzel has been going the roster of those APD officers who have not gone through the training. The majority of officers have gone through the training. The current academy class has 63 cadets. Approximately 46% of our field officers are Enhanced CIT officers. We will be closer to 50% with the new bid. We do have a number of officers moving inside to units such as IA Force. We have hired two additional MCT officers. We are waiting on Hopeworks for the additional two clinicians. Credits those clinicians who are willing to work late shifts and go into peoples' houses. Sergeant Dosal is currently conducting LEAD training to the Southeast Problem Response Team. LEAD goes live tomorrow. Will be a trial and error process. We are going to learn things we never expected. It will be a great program; however, big collaborations are hard to organize. Currently working on SOP 2-19; deleting old legalese; small changes. Want to stress field officer processes such as: how do you send a case to CIU; how do you get follow up; how to utilize the on-call detectives; how to avoid things sitting in the APD CIT email over the weekend that need to be addressed quickly.

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- Q: Danny Whatley: Will we be replacing Dr. Winograd?
- A: Lindsey Van Meter: Will be meeting with Commander Lowe and Sergeant Dosal to discuss this.
- C: Maxwell Kauffman: Have been looking into alternative restraining devices.
- Q: Danny Whatley: How are other agencies handling transport? As a former officer, I understand the need, for the security of the individual and the officer, to search and handcuff the individual, prior to transport.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: Would love to look into alternatives. Aware that in some places, other agencies are now responding to those calls so that they do not go in the back of a police car.
- C: Maxwell Kauffman: Sergeant Dosal asked me to look into alternatives to handcuffs such as soft restraints.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Was there anyone you spoke to who did not use restraints?
- C: Maxwell Kauffman: The extent of the conversations was alternative restraints. I will get with Sergeant Dosal with my findings.

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

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

COAST continues to do weekly outreach. In the month of July COAST personnel accompanied Sebastian Adamczyk from Family and Community Services to see what he does on a daily basis. One person covering the entire city.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: our largest responsibility is mental health but homelessness is something that needs to be addressed. Most providers think the better way to go is smaller shelters. Homeless individuals are afraid. There are folks that are there to control the sleeping areas. I am strongly opposed to large shelters. This may end up being a bond issue that is shot down like the APS bond was. I commend George Mercer and his group for the outreach and the work that they do. Mentioned the article written about Health Care for the Homeless.
- C: Rick Miera: Just as a recap on this issue of going in and taking down encampments and my concern about it becoming a police activity. Who is moving these individuals and how won't require police response.
- C: Deputy Chief Garcia: During the Senior Olympics COAST personnel were out on the streets just offering resources.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: COAST personnel accompanied Sebastian Adamczyk for three weeks. I will be meeting with Lisa Huval to help determine if he is doing this in the safest way possible. Sebastian did have a gun pulled on him. He is now equipped with a vest and radio. The things he is doing are putting him in situations that I as an officer would not be comfortable addressing. He is clothed in a black polo and bdu's and wears his ear bud to his radio similar to our officers.
- Q: Danny Whatley: So he is dressing similar to APD officers? That is concerning because he could be mistaken for one.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: He is now going into sub-standard housings. I will be meeting with Lisa Huval to discuss all these issues/concerns.

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

Training Sub-Committee:

Paula Burton: Training Sub-Committee met in June. Next scheduled meeting is September 23, 2019. Paula Burton asked that those on the Training Sub-Committee to please look at the emails sent out to them regarding training materials and to please respond to those emails.

Information Sharing/Resource Sub-Committee:

Lieutenant Dietzel: We have met twice regarding the resource cards. Gave credit to those who have been working on it. This was the first time First Nations has joined in on a meeting. Brain stormed on what needs to be on the cards. Modernized, updated and made it easier to read. The goal is to have the design to the printers by the end of August.

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

- Q: Danny Whatley: Would anyone be able to provide an update on the Tiny Home Village.
- C: The groundbreaking will not occur in October. Commended the Albuquerque Indian Center for offering land behind their center for the Tiny Home Village. They needed the financial support they will be receiving to continue operating their center.
- C: Would like to see presentations from First Nations and from the Tiny Home Village.

**MHRAC Final Discussion:**

Lieutenant Dietzel mentioned new legislation (New Mexico Electronic Communications Privacy Act) which affects APD on the pinging on cell phones. The City can ping; however, a warrant is required. Some crisis lines are having trouble getting information to the City as a result of this legislation. Lieutenant Dietzel asked if any MHRAC members knew of any other agencies that may have experienced any issues. Asst. City Attorney Lindsey Van Meter mentioned that there are plans to meet with legislative staff. She further stated that legislation is written differently in other states. The way it is currently written, APD has to go through a court and obtain a warrant. She asked that if the Board or any agencies they are aware of; has issues; that they talk to the legislature about those concerns. Asst. City Attorney Van Meter stated that the City would like the legislature to rewrite the law similar to the law passed in California. The City's main focus, for now, is addressing suicidal calls. Lieutenant Dietzel mentioned that there might potentially be a problem with 911 calls. Pings are automatic on 911 calls. The City of Albuquerque has thousands of calls per year. He also asked that MHRAC talk to the legislature. Danny Whatley mentioned MHRAC put something in writing that could go to the legislature asking that it be rewritten.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM