

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

In Attendance:

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day
David Ley, New Mexico Solutions
Betty Whiton, NAMI
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
James Burton, Peer Representative
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.
Cassandra Bailey, Detective, CIU
Laura Nguyen, Albuquerque Ambulance
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative
Maxwell Kauffman, Law Offices of the Public Defender
George Mercer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

Non-Voting members:

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

Absent:

Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee
Paula Burton, Peer Representative
Gilbert Ramirez, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services

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

Welcome first time guests:

Meeting began with a brief overview of the creation and purpose of MHRAC by Danny Whatley.

Owen Whooley, UNM, Community Mental Health Research
Lea Harrison, Executive Director, Outpatient Services & Business Development, Haven Behavioral Hospital
Robyn Rose, Asst. City Attorney, City of Albuquerque
Sergeant Deanne Rush, APD, Recruiting Unit
Sebastian Adamczyk, Public Outreach Program Manager, Family and Community Services
Zak Cottrell, Acting Commander, APD, Valley Area Command

David Ley made a motion to nominate Lea Harrison to the MHRAC Board. The motion carried. Lea Harrison is now a member of the board.

Approval of meeting minutes

There was a motion made by David Ley 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)

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Karen Navarro: informed the board that she was informed that a backpack was stolen or lost at Coronado Park. It is believed that it was disposed of during the cleanup that occurred at the park. All belongings at the park were tossed into the back of a City refuse truck. According to Karen Navarro, the individual with the missing backpack asked where the items were being taken. The individual was informed that it was being taken to the dump. Karen Navarro expressed concern that birth certificates, medications, green cards, current resident papers, and other items that are hard to be replaced may have been disposed of. One of the things that hit the hardest was the thought that family photos may also have been destroyed. She stated that St. Martin's normally waited several weeks for individuals to come pick up their belongings and that they went through them to pull any items that were important prior to disposing of them. Karen Navarro stated that she was upset. Notice or no notice, disposing of the belongings was wrong.

Isle Biel: mentioned the big uptick that resulted from kicking people from Wilson Park. Neighbors start calling. So law enforcement starts responding. An encampment becomes visible and neighborhoods, businesses start voicing their concerns to APD and want them removed. Isle Biel stated that that was ridiculous. The individuals need resources, a base where they don't have to keep moving. Keep going round and round in circles. Have to do something so it's not in vein. Isle Biel mentioned the report on KRQE on October 8th regarding Albuquerque police increasing ticketing at parks after hours throughout the metro as well as Gilbert Gallegos' comments.

David Ley: Questioned why C for E's was not on the agenda. It was explained that Dr. McCoy would discuss this during the Report from the Sub-Committees Section of the meeting.

Danny Whatley: Since Sebastian Adamczyk is here; perhaps he can address Karen's and Isle's concerns. He then noted that Carol Pierce, Family and Community Services Director, was also in attendance.

Carol Pierce: A number of safety concerns have been voiced regarding Coronado Park. Some of the concerns voiced were that women were not safe there. That people are being charged to use the porta pottys. Hepatitis outbreak concerns. City government departments met to discuss this concern. A determination was made that APD would enforce park rules and hours. It is not good when big groups of people are together. We are trying to find a new spot for women and children. Different pick up points for safety. We realize that there are those who do not want a 40 minute bus ride. We understand that 20 miles outside of town is a barrier. We want individuals to be safe and at a safe location at the west side. We now have 8 pick-up spots on Central beginning at Tramway. Using Herrera buses and a 6:00 p.m. pick-up time. There is a concern when you have a lot of people in one place. We don't want that. That is a safety concern. We also want our city parks to stay clean and safe for the public to use. They are cleaned in the morning. Sebastian will talk more about the items left behind. Outreach is still continuing utilizing outside providers. We are following ordinances. We are encouraging people to access the day services but then use the west side at night. We understand that not all want to utilize the west side. We have expanded our services to make it more desirable to go out there. We are in the process of setting up a computer lab. Working with

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Workforce Solutions to come and teach individuals how to apply for jobs. We are expanding pods; moving the family pods to where the women's pod used to be and moving the women's pod.

Sebastian Adamczyk: Described the process used regarding personal belongings. The project (maintaining and cleaning up the parks) has been going on for at the last six (6) to seven (7) weeks. When the park is being cleaned up, if abandoned items are found, we try to locate the owner or the responsible party. In the event we cannot locate them, we try to find someone who may know who that person is. If we are still unable to locate the party(s), we go through the backpacks and all important documents, items (medications, cards, ids, etc.) are then turned in to the Valley Substation. We do inform those individuals who are there, the locations (such as Steelbridge) where they can go to store their items.

Commander Sanchez: Our main goal is the safety of everyone who goes to Coronado Park. That includes the surrounding businesses, the surrounding residents, and those of use the park. We do offer resources, not just enforcement. Do we take some enforcement? Yes, we do. Some of the individuals at the park are being victimized while they are at the park. We had one gentleman who stated that he was concerned about some of the comments others at the park have said to this gentleman's significant other. After hours APD does go out and enforce, for the safety of all individuals. This is the most collaboration within the departments that he has ever seen. Commander Sanchez asked that everyone keep in mind why the City is doing this and realize the need to make a balance.

Carol Pierce: We started this in August. We are trying to encourage people to please not go to Coronado Park. We are trying to discourage the large groups at the park. We understand that some have permits to be there. We are trying to encourage them to do their ministries at a different location. We have worked with the Rock at Noon Day to offer ministry to take place at their location, where it is safe.

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

- Q: Karen Navarro: Is there truly oversight while every backpack is gone through?
- A: Sebastian Adamczyk: Yes. I am there.
- C: Danny Whatley: It would be a good idea to take law enforcement out of the storage of items. We need to work out where we can store it so that the individuals can pick it up. A number of those individuals would not be willing to go into a police substation.
- C: Carol Pierce: We do want individuals to access their belongings. Steelbridge is storing bulk items. Forty to forty five folks have taken us up on that.
- C: Danny Whatley: Some are hoarders. We tend to hold on to more stuff than we should.
- C: Karen Navarro: At St. Martin's we used to require them to make an appointment to pick up their stuff.
- C: Commander Sanchez: It does make it difficult on our part if we do have property where we cannot find the owner. The individuals have to call and make an appointment and go to a police facility.

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- C: Danny Whatley: Will work with the Commander. Most of the individuals have warrants and do not want to go to the police.
- C: Robert Salazar: We might be able to work out a partnership to have a place to pick up their possessions'. Maybe put in boxes. Avoid them having to go to a police station.
- C: Danny Whatley: In every major city that has outlawed camping, if they did not have enough space for those individuals, they have lost in court.
- C: Carol Pierce: Have to have enough shelter beds to cover point in time count. We've been trying to determine what are the times we should be 24/7 instead of just on weekends. We can pick and choose days due to the cold; when APS has school breaks, etc.
- C: Danny: Does not feel this is a law enforcement duty. ACLU is watching every move.

New Shelter Update by Lisa Huval, Deputy Director, Family and Community Services:

Lisa Huval was unable to attend. Carol Pierce, Director of Family and Community Services, was present. See above discussion. Carol Pierce did inform the board that they would be giving the same presentation to Wells Park and the neighboring community as well as the Sawmill District that they presented to the board last month.

APD CIU Data Book Presentation by Lieutenant Dietzel

With the loss of Dr. Winograd, Lieutenant Dietzel stated his report was very basic. He pulled the information he thought was important to the unit. He thanked Leslie Andrews for assisting him with the report. See attached report. He then proceeded to go over the report. Lt. Dietzel used (pulled) two CAD codes: 10-40 calls and 43-1 calls from January 1, 2019 through September 1, 2019. Calls are on a downward projection. All are doing a better job handling these types of calls. Credits this to everyone in this room. Lt. Dietzel then went on to discuss the CIT Worksheet; a requirement of CASA. Lt. Dietzel wanted to see where the contact sheets (by area command) are coming from. Where in the City these calls are happening. To see the distribution of Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (eCIT) officers city wide. This was based off of the shift bid conducted yearly. It is important to point out that CIU has zero control over where the officers bid. The data showed that APD needs to shore up eCIT officers in the Foothills Area. Lt. Dietzel did point out, however, that the MCTs are the "insurance policy" in situations such as this. APD currently has four (4) MCT Officers and one (1) alternate.

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

- Q: Laura Nguyen: How does APD Northwest MCT data compare to BCSO Southwest MCT data?
- A: Lt. Dietzel: We do not have access to BCSO data. The Bernalillo County with assistance from UNM compiles that data.

Lt. Dietzel next went over slides 6 and 7. Data from the CIT Worksheets indicate that 79% of those officers made contact with were not experiencing homelessness. David Ley commented that that 79 percentage seemed high. Lt. Dietzel responded by showing slide 7. Data indicated that 84% of the individuals that COAST personnel made contact with were experiencing homelessness. This illustrates that COAST is out there doing what CASA wants us to be doing. Lt. Dietzel then discussed the next slide regarding eCIT response rate to behavioral health calls. This reflects how eCIT is responding to behavioral health calls in each area command. He was hoping for 60%. As the data reflects, the percentage is way over that. The Outcomes for CIT Contact Sheets shows that: 38% resulted in no

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action required; 34% resulted in voluntary mental health transport; 22% involuntary mental health transport (threat of harm to self or others) and 4% resulted in enforcement action such as: arrests, citations, criminal summons or verbal warnings. The next slide listed the mental health transport destinations. Slide 11 was the Use of Force on Behavioral Health Calls. In 1% of those calls there was use of force; 29 out of 3,973 calls. This is consistent with APD's overall Use of Force percentage. Twenty (69%) of the use of force events were those threatening or attempting suicide. There is a slide that lists the type of force used on those behavioral health calls. Lt. Dietzel pointed out that multiple officers or multiple force options could be used in a single incident. Types of use of force include empty hand techniques, ECW – painting (which is pulling out the taser and putting a dot on the individual, actual deployment of the taser and impact – 40mm. Lt. Dietzel outlined the incident that resulted in the impact – 40mm. The individual was high on methamphetamines; initially doing donuts in a residential area, 5 mph. Individual next runs into a house with a knife, smoke comes out of the house; the house catches fire; MCT and eCIT officers and a clinician are there. The house becomes engulfed in flames; the individual would not move off the porch. The only way to get him off the porch and away from the fire was to use the impact-40mm. 99.7% of Field Services have completed the 40-hour CIT Training; 45% of Field Services are Enhanced CIT (eCIT); we have 4 APD Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) with 1 APD officer as an Alternate MCT. Going back to the 29 use of force events on behavioral health calls: for those calls, eCIT officers were on scene for 20 of those calls (90%) and MCT were on scene for 6 of those calls (21%). “Field services officers and supervisors are recognizing behavioral health crises and calling for a specially trained response. ECIT officers should remain the first response option when MCT is unavailable, and in situations that are too dangerous for civilian clinicians.”

Report and update from CIU, APD and Dr. Rosenbaum

Dr. Rosenbaum: Things are going well. We have started moving forward on our wellness program. Participants have had their blood drawn. They were required to run. One threw up. Overall it has gone well. Dr. Rosenbaum discussed a meeting that was held with an outside stand-alone emergency/urgent care service ran by for profit companies in Texas. Their goal is to have all ambulance services routed to their facility(s) with the exception of behavioral health or drug addiction emergencies.

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

- C: Lt. Dietzel: The concern is that Texas does not know the needs of the community. They want the money. They don't realize the low amount of detox beds we currently have available.
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: They are not designed to help the community; just themselves.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Who is driving this?
- C: Lt. Dietzel stated the push back right now is coming from AFR. The Texas Company (NUTEX) wants to have a facility in every little part of town. One of the big contentions is that they want ambulance services delivered to their facilities that are not under the influence or who are over the age of 65. Once individuals are in the door they charge to transfer patients to another hospital.
- C: Sebastian Adamczyk: There was a man who was literally at the door waiting 30 minutes prior to opening, he was triaged 30 minutes later and because he didn't meet their criteria, he had to be transported to another hospital for care.
- C: Lt. Dietzel: They are set up to specifically not accept Medicare and Medicaid.
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: They are a boutique. NUTEX does accept Medicaid. There are two different agencies.

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Assistant City Attorney, Robyn Rose was present to answer any questions, if needed.

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

We have combined our northwest and southwest outreach. There were not many attending each separate outreach. Our outreach times will be changed due to the colder weather.

Report and update from sub-committees:

Training Sub-Committee:

The Training Sub-Committee reviewed CNT Needs Assessment. The BHI training portion of the 40-hour CNT Training will be conducted by CIU. The curriculum can be found in CIT and eCIT Trainings. This is curriculum reviewed and approved by the Training Sub-Committee.

Information Sharing/Resource Sub-Committee:

Dr. McCoy informed the board that this would be her last MHRAC Meeting. Dr. Liz Romero will be her replacement on the MHRAC Board. Dr. McCoy will be working for MDC. She then went on to discuss Certificates for Evaluation (C for E). There is no standardized form. The Information Sharing/Resources Sub-Committee has been tasked with updating the existing Certificate for Evaluation. They looked into creating a standardized form. Legal felt the best route was to work on what should be on the C for E, and then send it to the Supreme Court. The Court has the ability to look at it out of cycle. They will then make it available for public comment. Once approved, it would be available for the entire state. The C for E, presented through email to the MHRAC Board, has been reviewed from all Sub-Committee members as well as some attorneys. Dr. McCoy stated if Board members are ok with the form, the letter requesting approval can be signed by the MHRAC Board and sent to the Supreme Court.

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

- C: David Ley: New Mexico Solutions in conjunction with APD developed the original form. The form can be distributed to agencies and notified that they should use this in the interim. The Clinician/Counselor should fill out their licensure. This would mitigate officer concerns about the person completing the form. What the law now states is that the person issuing the C for E has to be a physician, a psychologist or a qualified mental health professional licensed for independent practice who is affiliated with a community mental health center or core agency. Private practice is abusing this form. We might want to have the requirements on there. The more broadly we make the form, the more other agencies may misuse this form.
- C: Dr. McCoy: The Supreme Court lawyers will also be looking into the legalese.
- C: David Ley: Have seen time APD does not take the individual to the facility that the form may require.

David Ley made a motion that the Certificate for Evaluation be approved with the addition of the licensure information. The motion was second by Laura Nguyen. Form approved by the board with specified changes.

Dr. Rosenbaum took a moment to thank Dr. McCoy for all that she has done for MHRAC and CIU.

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MHRAC Final Discussion:

The deadline for End of Year Reports is Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Please submit your reports to Lori Cruz. The report will then be reviewed and approved by the Committee as a whole at the December 17, 2019 MHRAC Meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM