

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

**In Attendance:**

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day  
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee  
Betty Whiton, NAMI  
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division  
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU  
David Webster, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health  
Paula Burton, Peer Representative  
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.  
George Mercer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless  
Cassandra Bailey, Detective, CIU  
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative

**Non-Voting members:**

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

**Absent:**

Gilbert Ramirez, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services  
James Burton, Peer Representative  
Laura Nguyen, Albuquerque Ambulance  
Maxwell Kauffman, Law Offices of the Public Defender  
David Ley, New Mexico Solutions  
Elizabeth Romero, M.D., UNM Department of Psychiatry  
Lea Harrison, Haven Behavioral Hospital of Alb.

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 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.

Kathryn Arndt, Volunteer  
Mary Perez, Executive Director Adult Psychiatric Services, UNM  
Claire Jordan, Community Based Psychiatric Center Director, UNM

**Approval of meeting minutes**

There was a motion made by David Webster to approve the minutes as written. The motion was second by Betty Whiton. The minutes were approved as written.

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

Karen Navarro: Follow-up on last meeting. Would like update on securing of belongings: photos, medications, replaceable items that cost agencies, birth certificates. APD is asking for a case number when individuals call. Is it really possible for the city to look through all of the items being disposed of?

Danny Whatley: This discussion is on the agenda. Lisa Huval and Sebastian Adamczyk will provide an update on the New Shelter as well as Encampment and Park Sweeps.

**New Shelter Update and Encampment and Park Sweeps by Lisa Huval, Deputy Director, Family and Community Services:**

Introductions were made.

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New Shelter Update:

Lisa Huval provided the following update: Voters did approve the GO bond for \$14 Million. This is in addition to the \$985,000 received from last year's legislative session. The site for the shelter has not been determined. Will have a few community meetings on location and design. Will be sure to notify MHRAC. There will be a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the architect. Contract for the spring of next year (spring of 2020). Will try to find ways to mitigate the site of the facility with the surrounding area (once a determination has been made). Will be asking the state legislature to match the \$14 Million outlay approved by the voters. To clarify: the intent is not to create a large center with behavioral health needs. We will be asking the state to help to meet the needs of the community. It might be another facility, we don't know how we will use those funds (if approved) yet. We expect the design to go through 2020 with construction to begin in 2021. The last time the city asked the legislature for money for the shelter we only received \$1 Million.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: the reason why the city did not receive more was because the city did not provide enough information.
- A: Lisa Huval: Although we are not walking in with any information, the fact that we already have \$14 Million should help.
- Q: Will the County be contributing any money:
- A: Lisa Huval: We will be asking the County for assistance with land, capital, or behavioral health dollars to contribute to mental health services.
- Q: Karen Navarro: Will there be any plans to expand behavioral health services for the city?
- A: Lisa Huval: Need to realize it is a capital request not services.
- Q: George Mercer: Any additional housing vouchers?
- A: Lisa Huval: We have the \$2 Million (one time money). In process of developing a contract with service provider. Working with a consultant. What is the right number of emergency shelter beds we need available? How can we reduce the demand for the emergency shelters? On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the consultant will be here. We will be meeting from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Barelak Community Center. Feel free to attend. For every one support shelter we create the less we will have need for an emergency shelter.
- Q: Lisa Chavez: Will there only be housing vouchers available to those who are linked to that agency:
- A: Lisa Huval: Those most fit for rapid rehousing. Those with the highest score.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Is there enough available housing for all those vouchers?
- A: Lisa Huval: Yes.

Encampment and Parks Sweeps:

Sebastian Adamczyk provided the following:

In response to the concerns about irreplaceable items: met with Danny Whatley. Beginning just this last Monday, The Rock is receiving those items. We currently have some additional items for Danny. We are also continuing to encourage individuals to take their personal belongings with them as they leave the park. Sebastian himself is there at the parks every day and has personally trained all city departmental staff working at the parks. As stated earlier, has made arrangement with Danny to secure items including medications.

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

- C: Commander Sanchez: In response to the request for case numbers when calling the Valley Substation: Once items are placed in the evidence room we cannot just remove them. Some items are very identifiable as to who they belong to. Now when we do find such items we will be turning them over to Danny at Noon Day.
- C: Danny Whatley: it is almost impossible to get an id or driver's license without a birth certificate and you can't get a copy of your birth certificate without an id or driver's license. It's never ending. Health Care for the Homeless, thankfully, has a social security section. Danny stated that he will be placing the items he receives in a file cabinet which has been provided by the city. If the individuals can identify the items they will get it.
- C: Sebastian Adamczyk: Not really seeing a lot of items that would be kept and sent to Danny.
- C: Danny Whatley: believes the new process will work. 99% of the individuals have warrants and do not want to go to the substations to collection their belongings.
- C: Sebastian Adamczyk: we are talking about just a tiny microcosm of items left behind throughout the city. If employees, in the course of their normal job duties, come across items and they look expensive, they are generally placed in lost and found. Parks and Rec does have a lost and found. Individuals can call 311 and if they are able to identify the item(s), they can pick it up.
- Q: Danny Whatley: is this citywide?
- C: Karen Navarro: other city departments do this as well
- Q: George Mercer: Are the sweeps taking place in all city parks?
- A: Sebastian Adamczyk: Doesn't necessary like the word – sweeps. It doesn't really apply. Employees are performing the normal course of their duties, keeping the parks clean and safe.
- A: Lisa Huval: The City has a responsibility to respond to residents who are calling and expressing concerns about encampments in their areas. This is not an APD function. This is an employee of Family and Community Services informing individuals of services. Yes, we do come back and see if they are leaving. We have to balance the needs of businesses, constituents as well as the homeless. Mention was made of Albuquerque Forward.
- C: Lindsey Van Meter: asked that Family and Community Services please contact and involve her if APD Forward contacts them.
- C: George Mercer: It is admirable that you are informing individuals of the services offered but you also have an obligation to inform constituents as to the reason for homelessness. If you are not, you are failing.

**Discussion of the Independent Monitor's Tenth Report on the status of the Albuquerque Police Department's Implementation of the Reform in the Court-Approved Settlement Agreement:**

Lieutenant Dietzel: For complete CASA compliance it's more what we have left to do than what we have done. We really only have maybe two paragraphs remaining for full compliance. Paragraph 123 – eCIT: a massive report was created, it was mapped out. How much do we really need? With it completed, we just need time for it to mature. This will be the tool used in the future. All APD officers complete CIT Training. ECIT Officers (enhanced CIT officers) complete additional training and are re-trained every two years. ECIT is really the judge on how well we are doing. It is the yard stick on how we are doing. Paragraph 114 – involves the mandatory training of all members of APD on the MOU between APD and

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UNM. All officers, other than those out on some type of leave; have or will be trained during MOE. MOE began in September 2019 and ran through November 14, 2019.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: Might be difficult to get the balance of eCIT folks spread around the city.
- A: Lieutenant Dietzel: Correct, it would be hard to get officers to bid where they may not want to bid. APD has a yearly shit bid. Officers bid on where they want to work and/or who they want as their supervisor. We really have no real control. This is contractual. The only way to do this would be to have slots in each shift.
- C: Danny Whatley: We don't want officers to get into eCIT to just be there to get a promotion or in this instance to get a spot on a shift (in it for the wrong reasons). So this wasn't and still isn't something we want APD and the officers to be in.
- A: Lieutenant Dietzel: Correct. So, the bid happens, we go through the bid, we see where we are lacking and then we try to make it work.
- Q: Jim Ogle: do 911 operators receive training
- A: Lieutenant Dietzel: Yes.

Lieutenant Dietzel also addressed Paragraph 131 involving CNT and barricades; primarily situations involving barricaded, suicidal subjects who are not posing an imminent risk of harm to anyone except themselves. Lieutenant Dietzel met with Lieutenant Languit. A video is being developed to address this.

### **Police Service Aide Median Outreach Plan by Commander Sanchez and Lieutenant Dietzel:**

APD's Police Service Aides (PSAs) conducted a 3 week medium outreach plan. The PSAs were responsible for reaching out to those individuals on the medians to find out what the resource knowledge level of those individuals were; provide them with resources and find out what it would take to clear the medians. There was no enforcement nor were individuals asked to move from the medians. Though PSAs wear a uniform is it different from the uniforms worn by our officers. This was initially a COAST project (idea); however, COAST needed to catch up on cases that needed to be handled. COAST handles non-violent, low level cases such as the elderly lady who repeatedly calls 911 because she hears people in her attic. PSAs were brought in for briefing. They were given resource cards to distribute; informed of the Westside Emergency Shelter pick-up locations and pick-up times and provided with Steelbridge storage information. The City of Albuquerque has contracted with Steelbridge to store personal belongings. As mentioned earlier, there is no enforcement; individuals are not asked to move; no citations are given. As PSAs approached individuals on the medians they were informed that "you are not in trouble and you're free to leave but would you like to talk to me?" If the individual(s) said yes, they were asked the following: "What kind of help do you need? How old are you? Would you like to talk to COAST?" If COAST was unavailable at the time, the PSAs were then instructed to email Lieutenant Dietzel and COAST would attempt to follow up later. The Outreach Plan focused on specific areas: Rio Grande/I-40; Central/Eubank; Paseo Del Norte/I-25; and Coors/Ellison. Of those encountered, 46% stated they had a need. Of those that expressed a need, 44% needed food or water; 32% needed clothing or blankets; 23% needed shelter, shelter information or housing; and 1% needed employment. The majority had multiple requests. The oldest individual contacted was 72 years of age. Lieutenant Dietzel then went over the PSA Contacts map. As illustrated on the map, PSAs also conducted median outreach outside of the specific focus area. Lieutenant Dietzel went over a COAST follow-up case study on "Lexi". "Lexi" is a 33 year old female with a 5 month old daughter and a disabled husband. The

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family is living in a car. They won't stay at a shelter because of "dangerous individuals". Lexi was open to getting help, but overwhelmed, looking at the resource card, unsure where to start. COAST provided gloves, food, and behavioral health information with UNM. This case study is just one in fifty. We need some kind of case management for those individuals. Long term case management for those who would stay in services is needed. COAST, due to case load, only has short term contact.

Commander Sanchez: APD should not be doing these types of duties. We should have civilian groups handling this function. We can continue to be partners but we need to move away from that. Because they are still part of APD there will still be a lack of willingness to ask for resources. There will still be that hesitation because we are law enforcement. Need to question: Are we affecting the numbers because we are law enforcement. We need to move away from APD doing this. Other agencies need to gather this information to see what is out there and what is needed.

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

- C/Q: Isle Biel: Agrees that it should only be community members doing this. How do you see that playing out?
- A: Commander Sanchez: Collaboration from multiple groups. All agencies need to sit down at a table and all come to an understanding. We need to determine what that needs to be.
- C: Isle Biel: Maybe look at a neighborhood group.
- C: Commander Sanchez: Have to be very careful with that. We really have to have a process in place if we really want to accomplish giving them the resources. We want them to be moved away from the intersections. Unsafe for them and others. Important to have involvement from the neighborhood but we have to make sure we have a process on how the help in place first. We have to have the right process in place before we bring in neighborhood communities.
- C: Paula Burton: Maybe the city will bring in an outreach team that is not COAST because they are already so stretched. However, with no transportation, you wouldn't be able to implement it. Need use of a van. Not just giving out the card and leaving, they may have no means to get there.
- C: Danny Whatley: Good to hear that you are out there listening and trying to address the issues and help the homeless.

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

Dr. Rosenbaum: We had a meeting with UNM: information sharing collaboration, AFR, behavioral health. Had a visit from David Torrez, independent monitor; it went well. Detective Dave Padilla will be presenting at the next SCION Meeting in December. Deputy Chief Montoya will be presenting in February. SCION is for law enforcement officers only.

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

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

Rob Nelson: COAST continues to conduct strategic outreach. CIU will be providing a Christmas meal and gifts to two families in need.

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

Danny Whatley reminded the sub-committees to please ensure that year end reports are on time.

**Information Sharing/Resource Sub-Committee:**

Dr. Rosenbaum reported that the Resources/Information Sharing Sub-Committee submitted the Certificate for Evaluation Form and letter from MHRAC to the Rules Committee of the legislature. The Rules Committee interprets laws and makes rules about it. They liked the idea of having a state-wide Certificate for Evaluation form but they don't know if they have the authority to do it. The Rules Committee recommended that we go through the various licensing boards. We have been to two of the boards. If anyone knows anyone on the psychology board, please let us know.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: As Dr. Rosenbaum has said we don't have a good practice. They could do it on a napkin. There needs to be uniformity. There's the good old boy system in rural areas.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: What in part drove this were some of the certificates we were receiving. We had one pick up order that said the person was driving drunk. Our question was: how do we handle this. We contacted the doctor. He explained that his patient drives drunk on I-40 trying to kill him and others. I'm really glad the sub-committee picked this up. Once this process is completed the city will still have to write a policy.
- C: Danny Whatley: I agree and once we get the standardized form, we write the curriculum and do the training. We are asking law enforcement to be involved in a civil matter.

**Training Sub-Committee:**

Paula Burton: CIU will be conducting an eCIT Training on Monday, therefore, the Training Sub-Committee will not be meeting. Our meeting will be scheduled sometime after Thanksgiving.

**MHRAC Final Discussion:**

Crisis Stabilization Center meeting December 2, 2019

Non-Law Enforcement MCT (Bernalillo County) – a response from MCT that does not include law enforcement. Modeled from MCT program in Alameda, California; a clinician is paired with a fire department EMT. Will see how it works. Two teams planned for BCSO. Still new, so we really don't know. Like "building a plane as we fly it". When other agencies implement things they don't utilize MHRAC. The funding is from Behavioral Health tax monies.

An agenda item will be added to next month's agenda: Review of Sub-Committees' Year End Reports. Please submit via email to Lori by December 10<sup>th</sup>. She will forward the report to MHRAC for review prior to our December meeting.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM