

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

In Attendance:

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at Noon Day
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division
Gilbert Ramirez, CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services
Laura Nguyen, Albuquerque Ambulance
Maxwell Kauffman, Law Offices of the Public Defender
David Ley, New Mexico Solutions
Paula Burton, Peer Representative
Cassandra Bailey, Detective, CIU
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer Representative

Non-Voting members:

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

Absent:

James Burton, Peer Representative
Elizabeth Romero, M.D., UNM Department of Psychiatry
Lea Harrison, Haven Behavioral Hospital of Alb.
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive Committee
Betty Whiton, NAMI
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU
David Webster, Bernalillo Country Behavioral Health
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.
George Mercer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM. A quorum was not 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. No first time guests present.

Approval of meeting minutes

It was noted that because the board did not have a quorum, approval of the minutes could not be formally approved. An email would be sent out, along with the minutes to all board member to ask for any corrections or changes to the minutes.

There was a motion made by Laura Nguyen to approve the minutes as written. The motion was second by Dr. Nils Rosenbaum. The minutes were tentatively approved as written.

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

MHRAC Board Member Detective Cassandra Bailey acknowledged APD CIU Sergeant Mark Landavazo, who had an announcement to make.

Sgt. Landavazo announced that APD Detective David Baca, a Home-Visit Detective, with 28 years of law enforcement, will be retiring January 6, 2020. Detective Baca has been with APD for 12 years, and the last 5 years has been spent as a detective for CIU. Sergeant Landavazo thanked him for his service. Danny Whatley thanked him as well.

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

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

Introductions were made. As a recap: voters approved the GO Bond for \$14 Million. The City held a public meeting at the Convention Center on Saturday, December 14, 2019. One hundred and eighty people attended the meeting. According to Lisa Huval, the community input led to successful discussions. The City is tentatively calling the new shelter the Gateway Center; because it sees the shelter as a gateway to services and permanent housing that will provide safety and dignity, big front door, open 24/7 and an alternative to emergency room and jail for first responders. The Gateway Center Presentation, which was given at the December 14, 2019 public meeting, is posted on the City's website – Homelessness tab; along with a list of services (<https://www.cabq.gov/family/services/homeless-services>). Attendees of the public meeting were provided with the criteria to use for the site selection process. The criteria included: cost, impact on neighborhoods, access to transportation, and access to services in the community (i.e. housing, employment, food, case management, and behavioral health). Evaluations were made using the criteria. Lisa Huval explained that they are compiling the results and they will be posted. This was the first of many meetings. Some folks who are currently experiencing homelessness attended the public meeting. Meeting will also be conducted at the Westside Emergency Shelter and other shelters in Albuquerque. The City commissioned a study from an independent consultant. The report is on the website. The study found that the City needs about 500 new beds to accommodate all of the adults who are sleeping on the streets, in parks and other unsheltered locations. The study also provided alternatives to building more beds; such as alternative housing. This would alleviate demand on emergency shelters. Need a diversion system to other living arrangements. More supportive housing needed. It is helpful to have more specific numbers. Danny Whatley reminded Lisa Huval about the homeless survey on the website. According to Lisa Huval, the Gateway Center Public Input Survey is a survey about homelessness. To date they have received over 1,700 responses. One question constantly asked is: is the site picked. The answer is no. Site location is still in the preliminary stages. There are 5 sites currently being considered: I-40 and Second Street; UNM Health Sciences Center south of the State Laboratory; the old Loveless Hospital on Gibson; Montessa Park, south of the city; and the Westside Emergency Shelter.

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

- Q: David Ley: There are already several programs operating in the old Lovelace Hospital (for example: Haven), will this disrupt the existing services? Will this be a new space there or part of the existing?
- A: Lisa Huval: No new space, the owner has expressed that there is more than enough room.

Lisa Huval continued that there may be some concern in the community that the design has already been developed and we know how many beds. The design process has not even begun. The city did set forth a preliminary design with 300 beds, however, in no way is it set in stone. We know we need to build something that can accommodate the need. Given the cost of land, we are pragmatically limited to what is available and affordable. We may need to use city owned property or land that may be donated.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: Speaking as a member of MHRAC (not speaking on behalf of MHRAC), I feel MHRAC has to be involved in the creation of the shelter. We need to either form a new sub-committee or use the Executive Committee members which are comprised to all co-chairs. We have to be involved due to the law enforcement impact. It is being described as a gateway; a drop off for law enforcement.
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: That seems reasonable. Homelessness is a part of the CASA.

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- C: Danny Whatley: Because we do not have a quorum, I will be sending out an email to talk about this and begin the discussion. Nancy Koenigsberg, who is no longer serving on this board, was always opposed to email discussion. May be a violation of open government.
- C: David Ley: We can discuss this via private email but we need to vote on and decide in a public open meeting.

CNM Cadet Training Update by Lieutenant Michael Meisinger, APD Academy:

Lieutenant Meisinger and Lieutenant Saladin introduced themselves. Both lieutenants are with the APD Academy. Lieutenant Meisinger is in charge of advanced training and Lieutenant Saladin is in charge of basic training. Both are here today to answer questions regarding the cadet trainings conducted by CNM.

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

- C: David Ley: As the MHRAC Training Sub-Committee was preparing our annual report, one of our goals for 2019 was to clarify and ensure that we were involved in any behavioral health training or curriculum.
- Q: David Ley: have there been any changes on the arrangement? We are still unsure of what they are. It is our understanding that CNM would train 30 cadets, they only trained 25. It has remained a little unclear as to whether the trainings, as regards to behavioral health, have been reviewed by our committee. It is ambiguous to me as to the involvement of APD staff for the trainings. If they are training at CNM, are they using city time or are they using their vacation? It is really still confusing. This led us, as a committee, to request an update.
- A: Lieutenant Saladin/Lieutenant Meisinger: It is very confusing for everyone. Even to the state it's confusing. Our APD Academy Class 121 is, to the state, CNM Class 1. The agreement with CNM is: we will send 25 cadets each year for 5 years. We were supposed to start a cadet class with them in January; however, because we have a class of 40, we will have to run this class through our APD Academy. The CNM class will start up in the fall. They run on semesters. Our APD Academy is 6 months long. The CNM academy is 17 weeks. CNM is taking up the state requirements. The cadets receive 16 hours of behavioral health training at CNM. When the cadets have completed the CNM Academy, they come over to the APD Academy where they receive all of APD specific training. It's a complete training; it is just broken up between the two groups. Any behavioral health training received at CNM is the same training APD conducts.
- C: Detective Melendrez: APD is handling all behavioral health curriculums for both the state and APD.
- C: Paula Burton: There is a lot of the cadet training that we have not looked at. MHRAC has not reviewed cadet training recently. The basic cadet training at the CNM Academy.
- Q: Lindsey Van Meter: Asked Paula Burton what cadet training had not been reviewed?
- A: Detective Melendrez: The basic cadet training at the CNM Academy is the state curriculum. This is the basic training that cadets throughout the state go to before they can carry a badge. APD can add training but we cannot change the state trainings. The family night, the NAMI panel, Dr. Rosenbaum's trainings; that is all the extra behavioral health trainings (20.5) that only APD does. He also informed Paula that the curriculum they were using was the same curriculum that the Training Sub-Committee had reviewed at one time.
- A: We do have a full curriculum that identifies what a cadet that goes through the state and what behavioral health they have gone through.

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- C: David Ley: I think it's important that we review it all. It's a personal concern. When CNM came in, we didn't know what CNM's curriculum consisted of. Our goal is to make sure that what is being done isn't a way to get around the MHRAC requirements by stating its state curriculum; especially since CNM cannot be held accountable. We rely on our detectives. How do we ensure that our cadets are still receiving the same degree of training they were before? We want to ensure that our officers are handling those with behavioral health crises with the empathy that is expected of APD.
- A: Detective Melendrez: CNM Class 1 did get more training because it was APD specific. They received same behavioral health training we do at APD. CNM Class 2 is a regional academy. Those are cadets from other agencies throughout the state. They received less training.
- C: Detective Saavedra: We just had a meeting with those agencies and we did offer the additional training.
- Q: David Ley: So if an APD cadet goes through the regional health training they would not receive the training that is required?
- A: Academy Staff: We only send APD cadets to CNM when the class is for APD cadets only. They receive all the correct training. CNM supplements our academy when we have our own big classes. We currently have 60 cadets in our APD academy. We are hoping to align CNM's classes with our own so that those cadets can go through the remaining portion of our academy with ours.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Has it been beneficial?
- A: Academy Staff: It is too soon to tell. We will be seeing how successful CNM Class 1 cadets are. It should free up our structures to conduct more advanced training on other APD officers. And with the cadet training, there are certain topics that we are not willing to give up.
- C: David Ley: This is the first time someone has mentioned the goal(s) of having cadet training conducted through CNM – the freeing up of academy staff for upper level training. We have been asking this for a year and a half.
- Q: Paula Burton: How long is OJT?
- A: Academy Staff: OJT is 4 months barring any retraining. The cadets are with CNM 17 weeks then with us 9 additional weeks.

MHRAC Year-End Reports:

Danny Whatley informed those present that the CASA requires annual reports. He asked if those members present had any questions about the reports. There were no questions. He then stated that because there was not a quorum, they wouldn't be able to vote. He and Rick Miera will not be able to complete a cover letter until the annual reports have been approved.

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

Dr. Rosenbaum would like to see if Presbyterian Health Plan would waive the copay for mental health visits for law enforcement officers. He is asking the board for ideas and feedback.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: Is not sure this falls within the purview of the CASA
- C: Paula Burton: Believes it is in our purview to make recommendations.
- Q: Danny Whatley: Asked is anyone was against the idea?

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- Q: Gilbert Ramirez: Why just Presbyterian?
- A: Dr. Rosenbaum: Presbyterian is the City's Healthcare provider.
- C: David Ley: Recommended that it be a part of the contract negotiations. However, if the provider waives the copay, they are decreasing their profits for not charging for that session. NM Solutions does waive the copays for those individuals who fall below the federal poverty levels. The concern would be: are people going to waive copays because they like the person but not waive the copays for those they do not like? Therapists A and B could waive the fee if they choose.
- Q: Gilbert Ramirez: Would AFR be included in this?
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: His responsibility is with APD and its officers.
- C: Detective Bailey: There is an added trauma for law enforcement when we respond to a crisis or a call; we could be potentially criminally charged if the call results in a death. If the death is the result of officer involved shooting the officer is charged with homicide. It is just a matter of the homicide being justifiable or not. Our split second decision is scrutinized by armchair quarterbacks. So we aren't only experiencing the stress the results from responding to a crisis, we have the added stress that we could be blamed.
- C: Maxwell Kauffman: I feel it could be in the scope of MHRAC. We want officers to be of sound mind when responding to behavioral health calls.

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 was not present; however, Lisa Chavez was in attendance. Danny Whatley asked if there were any questions for COAST. Detective Bailey commended COAST Specialists Lisa Chavez and Celina Lopez. The two spent their own time this weekend alongside officers from the Southeast Sub-Station, members from the Carpenters Union, Mike's Painting and some other agencies working on a home. The owners' son had caused extensive damage throughout the house. It was discovered that his behavioral health crises was caused by numerous tumors. He is in Texas receiving treatment. Detective Bailey also commended Lisa Chavez for the work she has done assisting a family who has grown children suffering from Huntington's disease.

Report and update from sub-committees:

Information Sharing/Resource Sub-Committee:

Lieutenant Dietzel was not present. Max Kauffman reported the following: Outreach Court would like to come to an MRHAC Meeting and do a presentation. The presentation would take approximately 45 minutes. Lieutenant Dietzel and Max Kauffman will be meeting with CJCC and doing a presentation. They hope to serve as liaisons between CJCC and MHRAC.

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

- C: Danny Whatley: Forty-five minutes is long. How's does the board feel about that. We already have several things we are carrying over for next month. What we will look like in 2020, involvement in the new shelter will take up a lot of time. The monitoring will be going on for a period of time. The shelter will not be finished for several years.

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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Training Sub-Committee:

David Ley reported that the Training Sub-Committee annual report was submitted to MHRAC. Paula Burton recommended that MHRAC re-review the number of detectives in CIU and consider adding more officers to the Unit. It is the responsibility of MHRAC to look at this and vote next month.

MHRAC Final Discussion:

Danny Whatley informed that board that he will be nominating Sarah Alires for a position on the Board. Sarah Alires is with HopeWorks and oversees the MCT Clinicians. Danny Whatley stated that as MHRAC goes forward and begins looking at homelessness; Sarah will be a great asset.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM