

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Co-Chair Danny Whatley	The Rock at Noon Day
Sarah Alires	St. Martin's HopeWorks
Cassandra Bailey	Detective, APD CIU
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Matt Dietzel	APD CIU
Lea Harrison	Haven Behavioral Hospital of Alb.
Maxwell Kauffman	Law Offices of the Public Defender
David Ley	New Mexico Solutions
Rob Nelson	APD/C.O.A.S.T
Laura Nguyen	Albuquerque Ambulance
Gilbert Ramirez	CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services
Elizabeth Romero, M.D.	UNM Department of Psychiatry
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H.	APD Behavioral Health Division
Rosa Gallegos-Samora	Albuq. Health Care for the Homeless
Dave Webster	Bernalillo County Behavioral Health
Betty Whiton	NAMI

Approval of meeting minutes

Danny Whatley

- The committee should have received a copy of the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda. I need a motion to accept those as written.

Nils Rosenbaum

- Motioned to accept minutes as written.

Board Members

- Second the minutes.

Betty Whiton

- Has a correction in regards to the minutes; she says it's a common mistake but under the comments by Stacy Kuntz's, License Medical Counselor is spelled, "selor."

Minutes were approved

Welcome first-time guests

Larry Kroen

- Is an attorney and has an interest in these issues.

Cathy Sanchez

- I Work in the International District, I have Enrique's old job so I am the Urban Health Extension Coordinator. What brought her here today is Karen Navaro and happy to see you all; good to see a lot of people.

Erica Lowry

- I am a Sergeant for the Albuquerque Police Department, I am currently a CIT Coordinator for the Southwest Area Command and I am interested in behavioral health issues and what brought me here today is I would like to gain better insight on MHRAC. Recently I applied for a position in CIT and I would like to further my education.

Sebastian Adamczyk

- I have been here before but I haven't been here in like a year so I thought I would introduce myself again. I'm with the Family and Community Services Department with the City of Albuquerque. I am here because Lt. Dietzel informed me at one of the sub-committees that you guys might have some questions related to encampments. My position with the city is I am a public outreach program manager; I am responsible for coordinating the city's response to encampments of unsheltered folks on public places, so things like parks, roadways, any city or state property within Albuquerque city limits. In addition, myself and my partner, we coordinate with code enforcement when encampments occur on private property to provide support and linkages to outreach services and to start working on connecting people to services that will start helping them address their needs.

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos

- I have been with the Albuquerque Police department for about a year and a half and I have just joined the Crisis Intervention Unit as their administrative assistant.

Introduction to MHRAC

Danny

- Let me tell you a little bit about MHRAC. The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee was by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and have a focus on three areas, one, resources, resources being available to access to different things within the city that APD and first responders can use as it impacts homelessness and mental health issues. We are also involved in training and policy. Training is one of those things we made a tremendous impact in. As far as the training that is offered Bettys grouped with Donny and her connection there has been a great success story and continues to be. Policies are one of those things where the MHRAC is involved with assisting in writing and approving and recommending policy as it relates again to the narrow focus; we think narrow, but sometimes it gets pretty wide focused on how law enforcement interacts with those experiencing homelessness and those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Public Comment (Two minutes per person, 15 minutes' total)

Betty

- I have a great announcement; the NAMI annual walk was on October 10th, and that is how we raise our funds so we can provide our programs and training and materials free of charge to everybody in the state. We challenged the Farmington and San Juan walk team called CIT for Mental Health and we narrowly beat them. We at CIT get the trophy, and it's a traveling trophy that will go back and forth between Albuquerque and Farmington. So congratulations to the Albuquerque CIT walk for Mental Health walk. The two teams walked almost half a million steps. The trophy will go down to CIT and whoever there can take possession.

Max

- A quick shout-out to Lt Dietzel or CIU in general. The courts are requiring a law enforcement presence in their specialty core programs and the CIU really stepped up to fill that role in the behavior health courts and I think that is probably the most appropriate placement, it's going to be a great support for me and my clients so they have a familiar face so it's not just my experience in crisis and officers not called out but someone from the team through Lt. Dietzels Unit might be able to serve them and really help them in the middle of a crisis. I look forward to working with CIU in these programs.

Lt. Matt Dietzel

- I want to give a little credit to Mark Landavazo, one of the sergeants in our unit has just really taken this on. Thank you, Mark, you've really driven this and have done a great job with it.

Karen

- This is just a really good group to raise this idea. Quite a few people have this idea that we've come to a point in our city where quite a few of us feel like we need to have sanction and safe tent communities and with the westside not being able to take any new guests and Joy Junction not being able to take guests. There literally is nowhere for people to go so when they have to leave private or public property which really is all property, public or private, where are they supposed to go? This is more of a city thing but I wanted to raise it for APD to consider the need to have a vacant lot and then have porta-potties and maybe portable showers, maybe security, but to have the city establish this. It doesn't have to be state-of-the-art like Mesilla down in Las Cruces; it just needs to be a safe space for singles, couples, families to be, and I think we could use two or three of these throughout the city, because right now, I guess I would ask the question, "where are people supposed to go safely," so I just want to raise that.

Danny

- That discussion is already starting, mainly right now with the county, and Debbie O'Malley has raised and asked that be discussed. It's been discussed before; it is one of those things that our focus would be on response and training and again on APD's response to those issues as it relates to homelessness and mental health issues.

(Here is where Danny touched on housing with regards to the three S's, sight, safety, and sewer, but I lost the zoom connection during the majority of it.)

Continuation: I am sure that discussion has come up with you guys and a lot more, and continue to have it. It's one that would take up a lot of time to discuss and it's just now within the last week to 10 days that the discussion has come back-up again. We can certainly spend a few minutes on it but we have a pretty full agenda, but we can certainly throw that out there for discussion.

Sebastian

- There's a couple of concerns and of course from a city's official standpoint, sanction camping and those kinds of ideas at least, for now, is no, and the reason behind it is there are several other public health risks you mentioned; one of them particularly sewer, access to clean water, access to sanitized places to go to the bathroom, as well as safety. At least for the moment, those risks outweigh the benefits of some kind of sanction camping. Currently, the Westside Shelter is not accepting new clients. However, the clients that they do have, they are working very well to get those folks into their identified places; people who are at risk for COVID are going to one hotel and people who have COVID are going to another hotel, and those who do not are still at the Westside Shelter getting all the services and support that they need. The unfortunate timing of all of it is Joy Junction, as well as Good Shepard and a couple of other shelters are experiencing the same thing similar where a lot of places are not accepting new clients at the moment. Interestingly, as least from the perspective of where I get my information, reports on encampments, and things like that; I actually have not seen an uptick in any of those in the last two weeks or so; it's been pretty much the same. And most people that I interact with right now are people I have interacted with for several months and we're kind of playing the long game of getting them towards their housing. But for right now, that is where our big push is, is to try and get as many people pushed into those programs, on to those lists, and kind of problem-solving, and troubleshoot any barriers to get many folks help, at least for now.

Max

- Question: Sebastian, and Gilbert, this may be a question for both of you. You mentioned that the city is weighing the costs and benefits sanction encampments; so I am wondering if you could clarify enlight of the three S's that Danny explained, if there's not sanctioned tent cities, wouldn't that be worse off, places would be less accessible, there would be less access to sewer, it would be less safe, as opposed to if there was a sanction tent city?

Sebastian

- Answer: Part of it too, is with the limited amount of resources we have across the board whether it be the city, non-profits, or the county, or what have you, the big push is to get people housed as opposed to build the sanction spot and pour resources into that. The idea is to get as many people connected to services, connected to shelter, and connected to long term stable housing as possible.

Gilbert

- Answer 2: The issue around the WEHC not being accepting of new clients is more to do with the fact that we had individuals test positive, and what we have done with our medical

director, and this is really important because there's a lot of work that gets into understanding what contract tracing looks like, how many pods or individuals may have had contact with others, and how we need to isolate them, test them, make sure they go through their quarantine period and then return them to the WEHC. I will say as far as an update goes, the WEHC is on target to be reopened soon to taking new clients. What we want to make sure we do is sanitize the pods, make sure the beds are up and running, and make sure we follow the protocol to run everyone through a cycle. Now we have done a lot, we've lowered the senses at the WEHC, and by that, we've had to place some of our partner hotels to make sure they're in rooms whether they are people under investigation, PUI's, or they are actually testing positive and that they are running that coarse. We've also worked with our families to make sure they are placed appropriately. For right now what we are doing is, we have a wonderful relationship with our outreach providers so if something is going on during the day when an individual does need shelter, 768-HELP, is the hotline that should be contacted and through that, we have bed counts, we know who is taking who, and who is working with the city to be able to place an individual somewhere. If they cannot be placed then our providers have a protocol in place to decide whether a hotel voucher has to be issued if absolutely necessary. But, outside of that, we do have basically our plan to get the WEHC back open, which is probably what addresses the first question, do we have sanction sites for tents. Our job, what we prefer is to have them sheltered, not outside, and back into the facilities that we have, but we do have to run that coarse. I know that is difficult and you have to understand we are coordinating with the referrals that are coming from inside of the ER and people discharging for medical reasons, and is it really kind of a medical respite place that they need and that is all being triaged throughout medical providers when those calls come in. Lisa can speak a little bit more, she works with the outreach groups so I am glad she can join us today. That's kind of the process just to clarify for individuals. You know it's not that there aren't options, we are still working to make sure that individuals can either be placed with a partner place and if they don't have a bed than what do we do as the next level or do they enter into one of our hotels and they actually do have different criteria for each one as Sebastian mentioned.

Lisa

- That is a good description of how we are engaging with providers right now.

Danny

- We will probably be making that an agenda item going forward. Once we start hearing more about the sanction tent cities. I think the discussion is just starting.

Karen

- I will be getting in contact with the county.

Unknown name (male)

- Question: If the city can't, and or the county can't set-up sanction tent areas, could the city follow the CDC guideline of not rousting people from their existing encampments?

Lisa Huval

- Answer: First of all let me say I did come in at the tail end of the comments made about encampments. I do want to support what Sebastian is saying about sanctioned encampments. I think it's always a matter of how we are investing in limited resources. What we've learned in talking with other folks who have done sanctioned encampments is probably the largest encampment you would want to do is about fifty people; we've got about 500 folks plus sleeping outside on any given night. We would be setting up about ten sanctioned encampments across the city to meet the full need. That's a pretty big undertaking; that would consume a lot of resources and staff time and at the end of the day we would have not housed a single person. We are really focused on how we can get folks into supportive housing whether that is rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing and that includes really working with our street outreach providers across the city to do a better job coordinating our street outreach services so were more effectively engaging people in getting them into housing. So that is our position at this time on sanctioned encampments. The CDC has come out with guidance for local communities on how to help folks that are unsheltered during COVID. One of the things that they encourage in communities is to consider is letting folks in an encampment stay in their encampment. I will say that we have considered that but we don't feel like that response makes sense for our community and I think instead of letting encampments establish and grow and perhaps create other serious public health issues that they will need to be addressed, we have been focused on building a much more complexed and sophisticated system of care for people experiencing homelessness to help protect them from COVID-19. For the last six months that system has been effective in preventing a large outbreak of COVID-19 among those experiencing homelessness. Of course, that has changed in the last couple of weeks. But that system of care has allowed us to react quickly to the outbreak and prevented it from being worse than it could have been. That system and care do in fact incorporate many of the recommendations in the CDC guidance about engaging people on the streets providing hygiene products to help people stay safe working with medical providers building in the system screening and testing in isolation for shelter and others who work with people experiencing homelessness.

David Correia

- Question: I was reading through some of the minutes from previous meetings and I noted in January of last year Danny you were talking about the pattern of criminal trespassing citations that police were giving to unsheltered folks and you pointed out the problem this created because a lot of people, of course, can't resolve those and find those escalating into bench warrants and that's not going away. That happens daily; we talk to folks on the street weekly. I don't think I have talked to a single person who is unsheltered on the street that doesn't have a criminal trespass warning or bench warrant. I have also talked to a lot of folks on the street who have very troubling interactions and encounters with Sebastian who is understood by folks on the street that he is a police officer. Very few people know that he is a support outreach worker and very few tell us that he tries to connect them to services. I'm sure that Sebastian does that when he can but this pattern that you identified yourself Mr. Whatley over a year and a half ago continues and I wonder, I mean if you're not gonna provide and any permanent or semi-permanent opportunities for people in encampments and rather continue

to criminalize people for their status rather than ask; this just strikes me as pretty heartless, pretty heartless policy. This idea that somehow it's better to continue to roust people every day and force them to move so that large encampments don't establish; it doesn't protect them. It is certainly just about protecting local businesses and residents who complain and not the people who are the most vulnerable and marginalized living on the street. Is there some way that this pattern of criminalization and enforcement could change so that, by the way, I just want to point out that I read a criminal trespass citation of a man who had a shoplifting arrest for a dollar fifty turn into a bench warrant and then Sebastian and an APD officer roust him and then he ran and they sent a helicopter and two cruisers after him. So this is a waste of money a waste of resources. This person was hardly a threat to the community and instead of helping folks, we are criminalizing them. Could Sebastian or somebody explain to me why a pattern that you identified a year ago as really troubling and alarming has intensified?

Danny

- Answer: APD especially in the downtown area has changed the way they interact with those that are sleeping or whatever. It is indeed more of a wellness check not a lot of records checks to determine if someone has a warrant; they're just determining their well-being. They have a Commander last month to speak to that new policy, new direction. I think some changes are being made; there is certainly a lot more street outreach going on with the COVID and those are supplying a lot more resources than have been in the past. There is a bright spot to COVID as far as the resources that are being put up.

Lisa

- Sebastian does not issue citations; he does work within Family and Community Services so his role where he can is to be an outreach provider in terms of connecting people to services and coordinating with outreach providers to connect people to resources and then to follow-up to make sure folks have moved on and to engage APD if necessary.

David Correia

- We have read seven or eight criminal trespass citations filed by Albuquerque Police Officers in the court that specifically mention Sebastian by name and say that he is the one who helps identify them with them, persons who they need to check for warrants. They mention him by name by multiple officers in criminal trespass citations.

Lt. Matt Dietzel

- My Unit that is relatively small, does not do enforcement action. The field officers do have a duty to the public to respond to calls for service and I will present this as a kind of hypothetical situation, You're a Patrol Officer in the Police Department, you get dispatched to a call to go check on something, a business owner is the caller and the caller basically says, I want this person off my property. You get there and you contact the person that is called upon and you tell them you gotta take off the business owner does not want you here, this is private property. That person says, "no, screw you, I am not leaving." What do you do then? Do you ask again? I would hope you do. Do you talk to them? I would hope you would. But at some point, the police officer has to take enforcement action based on the situation they're presented with.

So yes, APD is going to issue criminal trespass citations, yes, we are going to issue notifications; we are a law enforcement agency. Let's say that officer does not want to give that citation, doesn't want to do anything so they leave. Now that business owner is going to call on that officer and send that case potentially to the Civilian Police Oversight Agency, and now that officer has to go into that agency and have the entire call looked at for any type of policy violation.

Albuquerque Community Safety Department Update, Mariela Ruiz-Angel

Mariela Ruiz

- I am here to talk a little bit about the new department that we are probably going to revisit the name but for the purpose of continuity, we'll call it ACS. We have made some adjustments to the budget. The last time I presented at the time the proposal for the budget was 7.5., with probably about 99% of transfers from different departments. Since then there's been a decrease and some of the transfers that were originally going to come over are no longer going to be looked at, at least in the large numbers. The individuals that were doing parking enforcement and the crossguards will stay in DMD. What that does is bring down that budget number. What we ended-up after everything was probably a little less than about three mils. is what we'll end up coming out. Additionally, we are still potentially through negotiation with everybody that needs to be involved. We'll be moving over the COAST positions, three full-time employees from the Family Community and a mental health person I think is coming from Family and Community, our homeless encampment team, and then there will be a group of guiding group or a planning steering committee that will be made of internal departments as well as somebody from the state and somebody from the county and additionally, potentially, we're going to bringing in stakeholders from the community who want to help in that planning. Once we have a plan some additional funding will be potentially released in the new year to help us hire some additional folks. We know we wanted to have something much larger but in talking to cities a lot of people are scaling back and realizing that this is going to take time. We're on the right track; I think the city council and the city are really doing everything they can to make this the right type of department. Amendments are a public record that can be found online under "New Department" not ACS.

Lisa Chaves (COAST)

- Currently, Sebastian and Celina will call COAST members.
- Question: Where will the referrals come from for the ACS? Will APD be a big part of that, will Sebastian and Celina be a big part of that, or will it be the store owners, the community?

Mariela

- Answer: All of the above. The idea is that ACS is responding to very specifically calls around those homeless issues, mental health, and behavioral health. It could be co-responses, it could be individually. We want to collaborate with all those individuals, but nothing has been solidified by an SOP or anything like that.

Lisa Chavez

- Fridays there is an outreach.

- Come see how it is encountered; we do offer resources.
- Sebastian, Celina, and First Nations are out there to offer services.
- Some parks you have to be careful where you step; there is a health risk due to stepping on needles, or where someone had urinated or defecated.

Mark Leclair

- During an outreach the first thing encounter when pulling up to the park is a female overdosing. We immediately grabbed Narcan and with the help and quick response from Sebastian and Hopeworks we were able to save her life.
- Sebastian and Hopeworks do make a difference and are very crucial to the city and the police department.

Wendy

- Some communities have public facilities; the facilities put in place to support these concerns of public feces are closed because it becomes a place for prostitution and sex work began occurring.

Jeff Jones

- I just want to underscore the close work that COAST does with the Crisis Intervention Unit.
- I need them in many cases to help me help consumers to help people in need; their expertise in guiding people through Social Security barriers and DD Waiver barriers. They know things I do not know.
- I hope there is no distance between COAST and CIU in the case of ACS; we need COAST.

Mariela

- I assure you that ACS will be working closely with CIU, MCT and the list goes on.
- With this new department, one of the bills that were also passed is that we are going to put \$500,000 towards helping the individual who is coming in or who want to go back to school.
- The work is not going to change so much, the partnership is still there.
- We will be working closely with AFR, APD, and DMD.

Rosa Gallegos-Samora

- Question: COAST, homeless encampment team, internal departments are moving over, and who else?

Mariela

- Answer: Four total mental health, Family, and Community individuals, some of those might be vacant or being utilized.
- (Here is where zoom froze again for about 30 seconds of recording)
- About eleven employees in total.
- We're going to test a couple of call types and see how it works with new folks.

Rosa Gallegos-Samora

- Question: Whos is going to be doing the training and what is it based off?

Mariela

- Answer: We don't know yet, I am big on training and it needs to be from an internal perspective. We have great training internal; we got experts and partners who do this work who we can learn from and work more closely with.

Rosa Gallegos-Samora

- Question: Nationwide?
- Question 2: Are there any changes to the dispatch process?

Mariela

- Answer: No, we have local folks; I am open to nationwide
- Answer 2: That is being discussed right now, and there will be some potential changes to ten codes and how people get dispatched.

Danny

- Policies and Training have to be in place before you make too many moves forward.
- City Attorneys already said MHRAC will be involved with ACS policies and training.

Lisa Chavez "Mary" (COAST)

- Being one of the individuals who will be a perspective transfer, will our relationship be one that has dealt with this situation, not just by phone but have been out there, not by someone who knows the mayor, someone with the experience who has dealt with this population? It is not an easy task that we will be taking on.

Mariela

- We've made recommendations; at the end of the day, the administration makes that decision.

Rob Nelson (COAST)

- Question: What is the thought behind moving us, why can't we stay with APD and work in conjunction and collaboration with ACS?

Mariela

- Answer: I think there is a lot of factors that play into this, and I think we want to be able to use those positions at full capacity and right now I think we have a lot of vacant positions and I don't think that is any body's fault other than we have been in this weird pause. We have potentially discussed letting the two positions in COAST stay under APD and bringing the other three over depending on what is happening in December. It's up to the administration on how those decisions are made also the city counselors who have been involved in those decisions.

Sgt. Mark Landavazo

- COAST is instrumental to the success of CIU; the great hearts and the great minds that really complete well to what the detectives do. I've voiced in the past, one of my concerns is, I don't want to ruin what is working to try something else out.

Mariela

- Question for COAST (Rob and Lisa): Are you working at the hotel for COVID-19? I am just curious to find out how much time you guys are giving? I want to understand the gap in services.

(Lost zoom connection here)

Lisa Chavez

- The referrals from the detectives and officers which entail senior citizens many of who would have died if we weren't there to refer homecare/healthcare services because APS isn't going into the homes, but officers are. Some other cases entail homeless who need to get back to their state which we seek resources and to put individuals who need respite care in hotels. I feel like APD is being punished by taking away the successes that help them. COAST works closely with APD.

Lawrence Kronen

- As I understand it, even with the reassignment those areas of communication will still be open with APD. Areas of referrals will still be open.

Lisa Chavez

- We would be going to calls that don't require a detective or an officer and right now some calls are unpredictable.

Sgt. Landavazo

- Those resources will still be available. CIU will still take on the cases that have violence or propensity for violence because they are law enforcement. ACS will probably take lower-level non-violent, non-propensity for violence cases. We're working on it.

Lisa Chavez

- Question: How do you set up an appointment for something that is happening right then and there, and there's no officers or detectives available?

Danny

- Let's open up the conversation a little bit folks; does anyone else have a question or comment?

Rob Nelson

- COAST carries a caseload as case managers, and that if we move over to ACS that will go away. So the low-level cases, who is going to do those? Right now, I carry 15 to 20 people on my caseload. If I switch over to the new department I don't know how I will be able to assist the

officers on their calls and do my new duties with the new position. I won't be able to do background checks. There are things that APD provides me that makes me more successful that he is not sure the new department can provide.

Nils Rosenbaum

(Mic was distorted I could not understand what was being said)

New Shelter Update by Quinn Donnay, Family and Community Services

Quinn

- There's not much different than the last meeting
- Homeless coordinating council committee process is chugging along.
- All of the committees, Coordinated Street Outreach, Affordable Housing, Used Housing, Homeless Service System, and Facilities, committees were tasked with identifying needs and gaps within our system here in Albuquerque and then identifying high impact strategies that go along with needs and gaps. Each committee did that.
- Last Tuesday at the Homeless Coordinating Council meeting; what was presented, "The Coordinating Housing and Services Framework Draft" document. Everybody's committee strategies and gaps were all consolidated into one document.
- The next Homeless Coordinating Council meeting on Tuesday council members will not necessarily approve it but will give the blessing to move forward; the document is alive.
- Working on a process for public comment for this document. We want the ability for folks to provide input.

Brie Sillery, NMCEH

- Question: What happens to the document as it is moving forward and how are decisions being made about the suggestions that are inside the document in terms of what is going to be ideal?

Quinn

- Answer: The process for the Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC) is going to be that one of prioritization. The HCC, they're going to react, and then they are going to go to their various bodies, whether is County Commissions, City Council, the Board of Regents, and they're going to also have their conversations around priority. I don't know what will happen next.

Lisa Huval

- Answer 2: When the HCC meets again we don't want to say they are going to formally adopt this document. The HCC will give it their blessing for the committees to proceed with implementing these strategies.

Danny

- Some of the neighborhood association had some of the same concerns.
- Make sure to include neighborhood associations.

Quinn

- We have neighborhood association representation on the services committee.

Brie

- Want to make sure that all of the decisions that are being made that as a continuum of care that we will be included in that process.

- Quinn sits on the Continuum of Care (COC) Board, so we do have some representation there.

Lisa Huval

- On these committees, we do have many organizations that are a part of Continuum of Care represented, including the Homelessness Service System and the Affordable Housing Committee. The City is the lead entity for the Continuum of Care.

COVID Outbreaks discussion MHRAC Board

Maxwell Kauffman

- Question: What is happening at MDC? Are we still facing the issues of officers when they try to book people are they being turned away? And, when those people are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, there's a gap there, what can we do to figure out the intervention at that point? Or, are we finding that MDC is so overburdened that they might not be able to disperse treatment to a large number of people so when they are released they are without an aftercare plan? Should we come up with an intervention strategy or what can we do to try and fill those gaps?

Matt Tinney

- Answer: It depends on the crisis. If someone is very disorganized and is experiencing psychosis and are kind of withdrawn and not speaking, the jail will not take them; they tell us to take them to the hospital. The hospital will just release them right away due to them not communicating.

- We've in the middle of a tack plan; APD is not supposed to be arrested for a misdemeanor, including misdemeanor warrants unless it's for DWI or Domestic Violence related because of the outbreaks at court. If someone is showing symptoms we have to take them to MDC, MDC waits till everyone is gone; then they clean and disinfect and take the one person in and they disinfect the whole area again before they accept more.

Maxwell

- It would be helpful to hear from MDC regarding their current policy and procedures.

Matt Tinney

- MDC is taking a hands-off approach lately. MDC is having police officers do things they have never had to do before, like dress out people who are being taken there and having officers do follow-up health care when originally they would do it, so there have been some changes.

- Deputy Chief Smathers works with MDC on that so issues get brought up there.
- Officers mainly working with Prisoner Transport Unit (PTU)

Lisa "Mary" Chavez

- Wondering why MDC is not involved in these meetings, they are an acute part, especially during COVID?

Danny

- MDC is not a part of CASA. MHRAC is a public meeting so MDC can attend and they can be put on the agenda.

David Ley

- MHRAC may be a convenient place to discuss these issues but I am not sure it is going to be an effective place to discuss these issues. MHRAC is intended to be focused on addressing issues around the CASA.

Lisa Huval

- Westside Emergency Housing Center is still closed to new residence due to the outbreak of COVID that we are responding to at the shelter but we are working very hard at Family Community Services with our community partners to be able to accept new residence again very soon, hopefully in the next few days. We will be announcing that publically when it reopens making sure to get the word out.

Gilbert Ramirez

- I sit on the CJCC, so I am happy to bring this to their attention. Individuals can attend that. The county is present and they do give a status on what is happening at MDC and the status of the RRC; it's all tied in, and we have APD at the table there and our city legal. But I am happy to bring concerns.

MHRAC Bylaws discussion—Matt Dietzel/MHRAC Board

Danny

- You should have received a copy; the last bylaws were amended on November, the 15th, of 2016.

Lt. Matt Dietzel

- At some point, the CASA is going to end, but not for a while; should we edit the bylaws now, or do we wait until the city starts drafting an ordinance kind of establishing MHRAC forever? Do we go down this road now or do we punt it off until the ordinance gets some traction? Civilian Police Councils (CPC) are going down that board right now in terms of getting an ordinance. I want to get an idea of what the Board thought of bylaws?

Lindsay Van Meter

- I think it would be helpful for this group to think about who would be a good counselor.

- Worked on drafting the Ordinance.

Report and Update from CIU, APD and Dr. Rosenbaum

Nils Rosenbaum

-Things are going well.

Lt. Matt Dietzel

-Sgt. D. Dosol retired, she was a huge part of CIU and NAMI.

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

Rob Nelson

-Still temporarily reassigned to ACS, not really doing any work for them, just kind of standing by in case they do need us.

- Doing COAST light duty, we're working on cases, answering PO calls, and getting in touch with resources.

Lisa "Mary" Chavez

-Busy day every day with our cases and new cases being assigned when officers and detectives need us with APD.

Lawrence "Larry" Kronen

-Question: How many calls are we getting per day? Field calls?

Rob Nelson

-Answer: We get calls for many different things. Can't really say how many calls per day, it varies on the day.

Lisa "Mary" Chavez

-Calls, social security claims, Medicaid applications, benefits for the homeless, link individuals with home care, healthcare, work with a lot of veterans, the list goes on and on.

Report and Update from Sub-Committees

David Ley

-We didn't have a meeting last month but we are meeting this coming Monday and I am sure we have a full agenda ahead of us.

Paula Burton

-Reminder of end-of-year reports coming up in December.

Danny

-Rick and I do a cover letter for the end-of-year report that each sub-committee has to do and then that goes to the monitor and the judge.

Lawrence Kronen

-Question: What policies and what training are you looking at in the sub-committee?

Danny

-Answer: What we have done in the past and we are looking at new training as it comes out as it relates to homelessness and mental health crisis and APS's response to folks experiencing that which sometimes can be a pretty broad subject. We're looking at all those policies that would be connected in some way and all that training. What we have been successful in doing is all that training is the Crisis Intervention Training offered by APS. About 40 to 50% of the instructors involved in that program are all MHRAC driven. NAMI has a huge part in that. I teach a homelessness class. It's just one of those things that through the MHRAC we have instrumental in introducing law enforcement and other first responders to outside instructors instead of all APD.

Betty Whiton

-NAMI, because of CASA and MHRAC actually designed a presentation for the CIT training.

-Sent information on the evaluations and their comments to NAMI National.

-They came and watched what we do. NAMI Albuquerque and NAMI Los Angeles designed this program, a panel of peers and family members to educate and interact with laws enforcement with the Department of Justice gave a big grant to NAMI National. It's called, Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement.

Lawrence Kronen

-Question: Is there any particular one you are looking at for Monday's meeting?

Lt. Matt Dietzel

-I think it is our Downtown team; Patricia Serna is our Policy person.

Patricia Serna

-SOP 1-28, the Downtown Unit, and it was emailed to MHRAC on October 7th and any feedback is due by tomorrow, (10.21.20).

David Ley

-We have standing items on that agenda reviewing training with CIT, with the eCIT.

-Doing a lot with the Tactical teams, helping them to revamp their training protocols to incorporate the Behavioral Sciences Department so that the training that Officers get is consistent across the department when it comes to homelessness and behavioral health issues.

Skipped:

-MHRAC Final Discussion

Next meeting: November 17, 2020