

# **Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**

## Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2021

Via Zoom

### **Board Members in Attendance**

Co-Chair, Danny Whatley	The Rock at Noon Day
Co-Chair, Rick Miera	Executive Committee
Betty Whiton	NAMI
Nils Rosenbaum	APD Behavioral Health Division
David Ley	New Mexico Solutions
Gilbert Ramirez	CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services
Laura Nguyen	Albuquerque Ambulance
Matt Dietzel	APD CIU
Maxwell Kauffman	Law Offices of the Public Defender
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Rob Nelson	APD/C.O.A.S.T
Liz Romero	UNM Department of Psychiatry
Robert Salazar	NAMI Vice President

### **Introduction to MHRAC**

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee was created by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and have a focus on three areas, resources, resources being available to access 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 on. As far as the training that is offered. 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.

### **Welcome first-time guests**

Dave Reiza, Southwest PCP

Diane "Dee" Sparago, concerned about the issue that I care about.

Rena Mc Dermott, APD Academy recently brought on Commander

Diane Mc Dermott, Police Oversight

Megan Aragon, Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Crisis Intervention Unit, Clinician

Lisa Casman, New Hire to T and C Management

D'Albert Hall, Deputy Director, Albuquerque Community Services (ACS)

Terysa Bowie, Albuquerque Police Department (APD), Tactical Commander

Tanya Marquez, Women of Deliverance

**Approval of meeting minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – David Ley

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – Rick Miera

All were in favor of minutes as written upon the correction stated above.

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

David Ley

Conversation with APD reports the department is training officers to only clear an encampment, without ACS that have exigent circumstances. Also, I understand the city is working on a proto call for the specific circumstance of encampment removal.

Max

The principles of the SOP and encampment removals when officers are involved.

Lisa Huval

The City has released a draft policy for addressing encampments on public property. Multiple departments are involved in policy-making. The process of the draft policy in addressing encampments; they'll post notices and services and resources, then make the referral to ACS through the encampment team.

D'Albert

Our street outreach team will be the primary contact to link individuals to services and resources. Behavioral responders, which will be dispatched through AFR, and is a separate team from the outreach team.

Danny

Q. Who will dispatch the calls?

D'Albert

A. It depends on the severity, some will come through 9-1-1 and some will come through sources (i.e. 311...).

Rick

Q. Which teams work eight to five?

D'Albert

A. We are still developing our teams, currently we are eight to five, but hope to develop a 24-Hour response team.

Deputy Chief Jaramillo

AFR has trained ACS new hires on safety, radio use, CPR, and Narcan and will continue to train as their team builds. We are still sorting out the way the calls will be divided out to ACS and the Behavioral Health Team.

Commander Dietzel

The City Administration recently went to Phoenix and Tucson for a site visit. On the first day, we met with the Assistant Chief of Police. Their system sends out the police first, they do warrant sweeps, they take people to jail and non-profits come and handle anything that is left over, property, people, etc. I feel, in comparison, our system works better for us.

Jeremy Lihte

Q. Family and Community Services Department, was the encampment removal handed over to ACS, or is it collaborative?

Lisa Huval

A. No. The encampment team is under the Clean City Division and not ACS.

Danny

Q. Is the property going to be mentioned in the draft policy?

Lisa Huval

A. The draft policy allows the city to collect, transport, and store personal properties. We need to figure out the process.

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department Update, D'Albert Hall**

We just completed SOP's that were approved. Training is going well and continues. As of right now, we have five Behavioral Health responders. We are primarily going to deal with low equity, primarily P4, P5, type of Behavioral Health calls.

**Gibson Health Club Update, Lisa Huval, Family, and Community Services**

I am the Deputy Director of Housing and Homelessness for the Department of Family and Community Services. We are hiring a Coordinator for our Gateway project.

The city acquired Gibson Medical Center on April 1st. Our vision is that this becomes Gibson Health Hub. The entire facility becomes a health hub for the community particularly the International District and that one component of the Gibson Health Hub will be a Gateway Center which is essentially an emergency shelter with robust wraparound services that helps folks transition into safe and stable housing. We've been focused on working with the community and the neighborhood associations that are surrounding or in the proximity of the Gibson Health Hub as we start planning for not just the Gateway Center but the Gibson Health Hub operations. We want to start getting feedback around three operational elements that are part of a resolution that Counselor Davis sponsored and got passed through council which is safety entry and exits into the building and operational or overnight capacity. As currently zoned, we do have to get the conditional use approved in order to use Gibson Health Hub to provide overnight emergency shelter. We had a community meeting in June to focus on some specific aspects of the operational plan we're developing, and facilitated meetings that related to our conditional use request that we will be submitting later this summer. Those were challenging meetings, but folks had a lot of really great feedback and things that we need to think about. So with that, we're working on incorporating all of that feedback as well as our own thinking, into an operational plan for the Gateway Center shelter. We're in the thick of writing that operational plan right now. Our timeline at this point is to be presenting a draft to the community for feedback in early August; this will be available online. There will be a feedback form so there's going to be the opportunity for folks to give feedback. In the meantime, we have had meetings with a smaller group including neighborhood folks, as well as service providers to give us feedback to develop the operational plan. MHRAC does have representatives, Danny and Laura have both been participating in those groups.

We have hired a Gateway Administrator, Christy Hernandez formerly worked at Hopeworks ACT program. She will be our regular representative at the MHRAC meetings. We are planning to release our administrative policies by the end of this week so will be posted online, [cabq.gov/gateway](http://cabq.gov/gateway). The city submitted a conditional use application for the Health Hub earlier this month; the current zoning for the Gibson Health Hub allows the shelter as a conditional use to show that we have met certain criteria. There will be a certain hearing with the zoning hearing examiner next month.

**IPRA Privacy, Maxell Kauffman**

IPRA –Inspection of Public Records Act: In respect to Body Cameras, how broad should we keep the disclosure for body cameras? I think it’s legitimate to protect the privacy of others. Let’s say they are having a bad day and before you know it, it’s on social media. The Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) provides the public with access to information about governmental affairs. The law requires public access to most public records with a few exceptions. The law requires open access to almost all public records in state and local with few exceptions. Under IPRA the public has the right to take legal action if they are denied access to public records, and an important mechanism to empower the public.

Danny

Q. Will ACS have cameras?

D’Albert

A. No there will be no cameras.

**CIU, APD, and BSS Report and Update**

Dr. Rosenbaum

We have a new Clinician, Megan Aragon, who is going through training.

Commander Dietzel

The APD progress report is coming out soon.

We are in the final stages of our Certificate of Evaluation.

Crisis Intervention is no longer a unit we are now a division.

We are having a 40-Hour CIT class will be next week; it will be a smaller class, we now have to go back to wearing masks during class.

Laura Nguyen

Q. Will the Certificate of Evaluation be available to other agencies?

Commander Dietzel

A. Yes, we want to make it universal for any agency that wants it.

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

COAST has been really busy due to field calls being up. We are asking for ideas for financial resources to help COAST be able to get hotel rooms to help our consumers.

**Report and Update from Sub-Committees**

David

We have returned to monthly meetings.

CIT is up for review although I don't see that there are any changes.

Commander Dietzel

The Infoshare and Resource Sub-Committee recently ordered more resource cards; we have never had to do that before.

**MHRAC Final Discussion**

Due to the Governments' Health Order, we will continue zooming our MHRAC meetings at least September and October.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021**