

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

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

Via Zoom

## **Board Members in Attendance**

Ellen Braden	Health, Housing, Homelessness
Coty Maxwell	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Ryan Delaware	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Bernice Varela	Crossroads for Women
Commander Gerard Bartlett	APD Crisis Intervention Division
Paula Burton	Peer Support
Mariela Ruiz-Angel	Georgetown Law
Chief E. Jaramillo/Chief C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Department
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom	County
Dr. David Ley	New Mexico Disability Rights

## **Introduction to MHRAC**

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) was created by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and focus on three areas: resources, and 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 have had 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, approving, and recommending policy as it relates 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.

## **Attendance of Board Members**

Rachel Biggs took the roll call; eleven of sixteen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

## **Welcome First-Time Guests**

Anthony Rael, Goodwill SSVF housing Navigator – Program that assists veterans and homeless veterans, to get them into permanent housing

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – David Ley

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – Paula Burton

All the board members approved the minutes from the May 2025 meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Lisa Chavez - Hopeworks

- She gave kudos to the CIT and other first responders who assisted with an elevated person when he fell out of the tree he was threatening to jump from after the branch he was sitting on broke.
- Lisa would like to know if AFR or any other local rescue unit has inflatable devices that can be brought on scene when there are elevated individuals who are threatening self-harm.

### **MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)**

None

### **Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams**

- They are conducting interviews for new hires for all positions that were posted over the last month.

### **Gateway Center and Health, Housing, & Homelessness Update, Ellen Braden**

- Distributing water, sunscreen, lip balm, and cooling towels to day shelters and outreach teams
- First Responders Receiving Center is still operational, changing providers in July

### **APD, CIU, and BSS Update, Commander Bartlett, Sgt. Tinney, Sgt. Bludworth**

- Commander Bartlett has invited Justice Zamora to attend the MHRAC meeting in July and speak on House Bill 8 – Competency as it relates to the courts.
- If anyone has specific questions they would like to ask her, please send them in advance.
- Sgt. Tinney gave stats for the May referrals, which were a total of 507; of those, 103 were assigned, and 57 referred out.
- To date, stats for the June referrals consist of 346 referrals, of those, 91 have been assigned, and 30 referred out.
- There has been an increase in Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Orders referrals for behavioral health and domestic violence cases.
- Sgt. Bludworth announced the date of July 1, 2025, which will be the first training of the new State-approved eCIT curriculum.

### **Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update**

- None – no meeting in the month of May in observance of Memorial Day. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2025. There are several policies to review and discuss.

### **MHRAC Final Discussion**

- MHRAC Ordinance Update, Rachel Biggs
  - Things are still moving forward
  - They had a productive meeting with City Officials
  - Will have to go before the City Council

- County Update, Dr. Wayne Lindstrom
  - We had to build out our FY26 budget, and the strategic plan calls for three departments in our new division. We are restructuring into three departments: Behavioral Health Services, Operational Supports, and Community Engagement
  - We had Care Campus leadership changes and planned improvements.
  - We are interviewing for a new Director and Operations Manager
  - County to issue joint city/county RFP for opioid settlement fund allocation after the new fiscal year
  - Strategic focus on sustainable, long-term investments through 2038
  - We were required to do a behavioral health strategic plan for the behavioral health ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Fathom Transcript of this MHRAC meeting is available upon request; email [bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov](mailto:bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov).