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

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Max Kauffman Disability Rights of New Mexico

Rachel Biggs Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

Cmdr. M. Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

Mariela Ruiz-Angel Albuquerque Community Safety

David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Gilbert Ramirez CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services

DC Emily Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mary Perez Albuquerque Ambulance

Robert Salazar NAMI Representation

Dr. Nils Rosenbaum APD Behavioral Science Services

Det. Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Paula Burton NAMI Representative

Wendy Linebrink-Allison New Mexico Crisis Line

**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 have a 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 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.

**Roll Call, Max Kauffman**

Thirteen (13) of the Board Members were present (names listed above)

**Welcome first-time guests**

Jeffrey Bustamante

Organizational Growth and Community Manager, Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS)

Erica Lowry, Sergeant

APD Crisis Intervention Division, Coordinators, and MCT Team

David Fishback

Radiology, UNMH Emergency Room

Aja Brooks

Executive Assistant, US Attorney in the District of New Mexico

* Taking over the Community Engagement portion of the Consent Decree for Elizabeth Martinez

Rebecca Frock

UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center

Vanessa Hurd

Lieutenant, Oklahoma City Police Department

**Approval of meeting minutes**

1st Motion – David Ley

2nd Motion – Nils Rosenbaum

Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were approved. There was no meeting in December.

**Public Comment (Two minutes per person)**

David Fishback

* On December 14th had a family member in a mental health crisis with an active suicide attempt by running into oncoming traffic
* He called 911 for assistance because the family member has s history; this is the 2nd attempt in the last two months
* Family member did not receive any response from any mental health professional
* Crisis Intervention Team was not activated
* Family member was allowed to refuse medical care and was not restrained
* Family member was in danger of herself and others
* As a result she is facing felony charges due to the actions of one of the officers involved

David would like to be involved moving forward in whatever way he can.

* He works in Policy Improvement and Development at UNM
* Works primarily in safety within the Radiology Department, specifically within ineffective restraints
* David says, he might be able to bring some valuable insight into how we might be able to start treating people that are in crisis, as patients and their medical episodes, not as criminals

David Ley

Q. What area of town did this take place and what time of day or night; it does make a difference if the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) is available.

David Fishback

A. We are in the Northwest Quadrant of Albuquerque, corner of Coors and Montano

* Based on your annual report from last year, it is a highly underserved area for Crisis Intervention responses.
* It was within the hours of when that response should have happened; it was a weeknight prior to 10:00 pm, not too late in the evening.

David Ley

That information helps us so we can check in with ACS and the Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) to know if that area is in their current geography.

David Fishback

* Since all this happened, I have done a lot of research by looking into the SOP, documents, and DOJ Settlement Agreement
* I reached out to the Northwest Substation Lieutenant; he connected me with Detective Maxwell from the Crisis Intervention Team
* Det. Maxwell was excellent and he brought a group of his professional crew members to the house and they met with us last week. It made a world of difference
* It is concerning that it took monumental efforts on my part to reach out and make it happen and it makes me wonder how many people are slipping through the cracks that do not have somebody advocating on their behalf to make things happen

Max Kauffman

* I think this point there is an obvious need for more Mobile Crisis Services or at least better coordination of Mobile Crisis Services.
* It is hard to get a bunch of Mobile Crisis Teams able to dispatch at any moment 24/7, but I think that should certainly be the goal.
* Over a year ago, we received a presentation from the County’s Mobile Crisis Team, CET, which stands for County’s Community Engagement Team. Does anyone know if that team still exists and how coordinated is that team with APD? And, is that team covering these unincorporated areas of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County

Commander Dietzel

* The County’s Community Engagement Team (CET)
* CET is not actively taking calls as they happen
* They are more of a referral location
* Crisis Intervention Division will send referrals over to them
* They provide some kind of follow-up, light case management

Commander Dietzel

I will look up the family member’s call, if it is an APD call I will watch all the videos and pull the reports and go through them.

**Nomination of New Board Members, if any, Rachel/Max**

No nominations were made

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) Update, Jeffery Bustamante**

Our information and data are available on the ACS Website [www.cabq.gov/acs/reports](http://www.cabq.gov/acs/reports)

* We are now over 23,000 calls since we were created and are expecting that to stay pretty strong and continue through the year for a handful of reasons
* We did some roundtables, we had a roundtable today with Senator Lujan and we will be doing another with Senator Heinrich soon
* We are doing work with the Violence Intervention Program at the Gateway Center
* We have completed the over to the Gateway Center
* We will be doing a groundbreaking in the next couple of months at our permanent location and which is at Katherine and San Mateo in the International District
* The growth continues; we’re staffing up and we’re stepping up pretty aggressively
* We had a class from our academy just graduate; the academy is about four weeks of classroom training that our new hires will go through.
* It is not just the classroom; we go to a lot of site-based training and then they move on to the job training with our current folks or responders
* You will see more folks and cars out there
* We have another class starting at the end of the month and we are anticipating a few more this year
* The vision for this year is to move towards 24/7
* We will participate in the Point-in-Time Survey to get our unsheltered individuals; we will do that organization-wide.
* We are chipping in on the warming stations
* We have an updated newsletter with more details on our website

**Gibson Health Hub, Family and Community Services, Cristina Parajon and Gilbert Ramirez**

* We opened some emergency beds at Gibson Health Hub; this is not part of the gateway services that we are providing. We were trying to fill this separate need just during the winter.
* Gateway is scheduled to open in April but because of the cold winter this year we want to provide shelter immediately.
* We did a lot of work to get it ready in order to have people there
* We have 50 beds open and there still are beds available. The beds are for single women and single men. For families and emergencies, we recommend the county hotel, our “Wellness to Hotel” waiting list is long
* For emergencies the county hotel is available.
* At Gibson we are providing meals in addition to transportation so these are only overnight beds; they are not for the whole day. The time frame is from 4:30 to 8:00 pm.
* As of Friday, we open the referral process to all providers; an email with the link went out from Family Community Services
* When we started we worked closely with ACS, First Nations and HopeWorks Outreach teams, and Heading Home Street Connect
* We have pickup and drop-off locations, bathrooms, showers, and hot dinners.
* We are allowing people from the Westside Emergency Shelter who have jobs and need a closer location to stay there due to them traveling one hour each way so this helps them have a shorter commute.
* Elizabeth is also recruiting from the 1st and Indian School area for the beds and twenty-five people have been transferred to hotel rooms to work towards housing.

Rachel

Q. Could you clarify the service animals?

Cristina

A. We follow all ADA requirements by law. If somebody has a service animal, they can bring it; there are relief areas for the animals and doggie bags.

Rachel

Q. I heard you reference, “it is just an overnight bed,” do people have to agree to participate in Case Management or certain program requirements in a shelter?

Cristina

A. They do not, we are entering people into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to help with that system, and getting people in may be the first step to then access the Coordinated Entry System, but no requirement for participation in any kind of program there.

Cristina

If your organization is interested in referring people and you did not receive the email that went out to the providers, email Cristina Parajon at cparajon@cabq.gov

Max

Q. I received some concerning reports regarding the WEC and issues with bed bugs and inoperable showers. Are these reports accurate, and is there an upcoming plan to help with this?

Gilbert Ramirez

A. There was a recent complaint that was lodged in the Office of Inspector General who asked us to look into that. That report has actually been published and the responses are there. The shower issue was in areas where we do not have anybody housed. As for the bed bugs and mitigation, we are on a 90-day cycle for treatments for all the pods. Fire hydrants were done and are in fine working order with no actions required for remediation.

**CIU, APD, and BSS Report and update, Commander Dietzel**

* The certificate of Evaluation and New Mexico State Statute 43-01-10 Video by MCT Officer Dorian Dixon was played for the MHRAC attendees to view.
* This video explains the Albuquerque Police Department policy and procedure for enforcing New Mexico State Statute 43-01-10 and the service of Certificates for Evaluation, in reference to emergency mental health evaluations.

The video link is: <https://youtu.be/dHOBCUInuSM>

**Sub-Committees Report and Updates**

Commander Dietzel-Infoshare Sub-committee

* Resource Cards are once again updated

David Ley – Training Sub-Committee

* We did not meet in December

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

Rachel Biggs

We are recruiting new MHRAC members; we are looking for community members with lived experiences, people that are passionate about these issues, professionals in the behavioral health, and mental health realm, and homeless services and providers. If you have any referrals or recommendations, please reach out to me or Max.

Gilbert Ramirez

Warming Centers will be open this weekend due to the weather

**Next meeting: February 21, 2023**