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

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Max Kauffman Disability Rights of New Mexico

Cmdr. M. Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

DC Emily Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mary Perez Albuquerque Ambulance

Robert Salazar NAMI Representation

Paula Burton NAMI Representative

Wendy Linebrink-Allison New Mexico Crisis Line

Mary Magnusson Albuquerque Street Connect/Heading Home

Betty Whiton NAMI

**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**

Nine (9) of the Board Members were present (names listed above)

**Welcome first-time guests**

No first-time guests who chose to introduce themselves

**Approval of meeting minutes**

1st Motion – Paula Burton

2nd Motion – Wendy Linebrink-Allison

Minutes from the January 2023 meeting were approved.

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

Max

I had a meeting with Superintendent of Police Reform, Victor Valdez, and the city CEO, Bob White, about MHRAC and its evolving role in the CASA. For quite some time Rachel and I have been trying to figure out how to update bylaws in conjunction with establishing an ordinance if that is what it’s going to be and getting support from the city and trying to navigate how we are going to do this. Part of our discussion was on how we are going to institutionalize this advisory body in an agreeable way that will remain effective. I believe that I got some more reassurance that the city will help us kind of formulate the next steps and plans.

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

Max Kauffman, MHRAC Co-chair nominate Mary Magnussen, who’s been involved, attending, and participating in the MHRAC.

None of the Board Members objected to the nomination so Max welcomed Mary Magnussen as an MHRAC Board Member.

Mary Magnussen

* I have been involved with the MHRAC since the DOJ created the committee.
* I was working at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) as the Clinical Educator for Behavioral Health for 11 years.
* I worked closely with Matt Tinney and Nils Rosenbaum to create the CIT Program that came out of the DOJ findings and I taught at the academy as an employee of UNMH
* I am currently the Clinical Services Director for Albuquerque Street Connect with Heading Home.
* I am a registered nurse (RN) and I have a master’s in nursing
* I have worked in Behavioral Health for the vast majority of my career
* I was a supervisor in Psych Emergency Services and a supervisor on one of the inpatient units at UNMH
* My focus has been on the severely mentally ill, and the lack of resources, and that was a good segue into working with the un-homed in our community.

**UNM Crisis Triage center and Psychiatric Emergency Center, Mary Perez**

* Our new behavioral Health Crisis Center has a cement pad
* The pillars should be started in the next couple of weeks so that it is starting to look like a building
* So far we are on track with the construction and as we get closer to an opening date, we will be meeting with different representatives to make sure that we’re serving the community in the way it was intended

Commander Dietzel

I am so excited about the Crisis Triage Center and so appreciative of UNM and the Bernalillo County Health Tax for putting this together. It is going to be nice to have a place we can take people with a humane quick drop-off.

Max

Q. I heard UNM is coming to help out with health care at MDC.

Mary Perez

A. That is a fact, we have agreed in some capacity to help with MDC medical. Everything is as you might imagine, very tenuous at this point in terms of what it is going to look like and what we are going to do, so I can’t speak much to the detail. Several leaders across UNMH will be helping put a plan together to support the jail. We are working with the county folks to get that accomplished.

**Self-Monitoring Process, APD Performance Metric Unit, Cara Garcia, Deputy Director**

The insight of the structure of where I align in the department is Analytics and Accountability Bureau within APD with four divisions; I am under Compliance and Oversight.

* We do everything related to CASA inspections, and policy, and we collaborate with the monitors with data requests. We are entering a new and exciting phase with suspended monitoring. That means that both the City and DOJ have submitted joint notices to the court in relation to the CASA for certain paragraphs.
* For the monitoring, that means that APD gets to show and showcase that they can govern reform efforts independently.
* We’re going to be utilizing a civilian inspection unit called the Performance Metrics Unit (PMU) and they are going to be conducting self-assessments; the frequency of these self-assessments will depend on a number of factors. It could be annually or semi-annually, depending on compliance levels. Right now, the first self-assessment we did with the multi-agency task force will happen on an annual basis, so that may be similar to what we anticipate to assess APDs’ role and how they participate with MHRAC; it could be on an annual basis.

There have been two joint notices filed with the court that equates to 104 CASA paragraphs that are currently suspended for monitoring. I do want to make note that there is a difference between the termination of the CASA and suspension. Suspension means that it's suspended from any independent monitoring, however, DOJ is going to still be involved in looking at our self-assessments. Our independent monitor will still receive our self-assessments. They can provide any technical assistance and make comments. That only helps us as an agency for our inspection process just to be that robust.

This is a good transition time for us to not only show that we can self-asses but still have all of the assistance and resources of both DOJ and the monitoring team if need be while we move forward. We have already conducted self-assessments.

ARS 1 was successful, we went through all of the review processes, and that was the multi-agency task force. Just to give you some perspective on the CASA, its 276 paragraphs that the agency has to be compliant with, of those 276, 104 are suspended. That doesn't mean that it equates to like an exact chunk of paragraphs like paragraphs 16 through 54. They're sort of sprinkled all over the settlement agreement, some of which are MHRAC paragraphs. There are some MHRAC paragraphs that are not suspended at this time. So, for example, paragraph 114, still is under independent monitoring. Termination of the agreement is different; that means that DOJ and the city agree that we have fulfilled all of the requirements of the CASA and we've sustained that fulfillment for at least two or more years that we have fulfilled our obligations under the CASA.

What system self-assessments will do; they will ensure that we are sustaining compliance. We, meaning the Albuquerque Police Department. Our scope is solely based on how APD is sustaining compliance. MRAC is an independent committee made up of Subject Matter Experts (SME) that the department is consulting with, so our scope will most definitely be in the realm of APD's participation and ensuring that APD continues to participate with MHRAC. For example, ensuring that commanding officers are present like Commander Dietzel and other command officers. So it's just sustaining those efforts as far as APD's role. Right now, we're in the works of getting our self-assessments developed. We're currently working on one with the field training officers.

So we're not quite yet with MHRAC; as we get to that particular time we're going to be doing self-assessments. There's not going to necessarily be an assessment of what the Subject Matter Experts are giving as far as their recommendations to the department. MHRAC will be that independent entity.

Max brought up something really important when he was saying that he was discussing with the city to have an ordinance. MHRAC isn't the only thing that came out of the CASA that has its own independent governing ordinance; our Community Policing Councils (CPC) are the same thing.

When we self-assess for that, for example, we're not going to be necessarily assessing an independent entity outside of the department; we're actually going to be assessing APD’s role of participating with the CPCs.

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) Update, Jasmine Desiderio**

* Last month we responded to over 25,000 calls for service, diverting up to 15,000 from APD
* Our new headquarters at construction has started; there was going to be a groundbreaking scheduled for tomorrow but it has been postponed due to the inclement weather.
* We have hired some new responders, 13 new responders completed the training and are currently in the field with an additional five currently in training right now and potentially completing OJT in the next couple of weeks and then in the field thereafter.
* We are going to be doing another hiring push so we are hoping to hire up to 20 to 30 new responders in the coming months
* We are looking to increase our spanned in Albuquerque. Right now, we don’t have any designated areas of like are commands similar to APD; we are just all over the city of Albuquerque.
* The new Bernalillo County Sheriff reaches out to ACS and we had a conversation on how we can work collaboratively.
* We had a new Mobile Crisis Team Clinician start on the 13th of February and is currently in training,

**Gibson Health Hub, Family and Community Services, Cristina Parajon and Elizabeth Holguin**

* We started a pilot program for what we are calling Job Connect, kind of a model after Street Connect. The CEO of Heading Home has a lot of vocational training experience and the pilot aims to serve 30-40 people. We have already had 67 apply in the first couple of weeks of getting them staffed up.
* We aim this program to be sustainable and provide people actual experience, training, and career paths in something that they are interested in.
* They got a really good connection with the restaurant association
* We are hoping to get funding to expand for the next fiscal year
* There is some legislation going through City Council tomorrow to do a pilot to expand the Street Connect model who usually just target the highest utilizers but this would expand to be a way to respond or resolve an entire encampment
* This are lessons learned from Houston; we were able to do a site visit
* I recently had a phone call with Fresno and maybe we will do a site visit there to learn from other cities
* We're having navigators come for weeks ahead of time to get everybody enrolled in the system, see who already has a housing voucher so that the day that the encampment is decommissioned, we move people directly into housing, or we have funding from hotel vouchers so that they're not lost and they can continue working to get into the proper pathway, whether that be housing or rehab or another option, instead of just continuing always to shuffle people around the city.

Max

Q. So for the encampments, how will the street connect model work in terms of how much notice is there to this commission and how much exposure is Street Connect going to give you before the cabinet is decommissioned; are there three days in are they just there the day that it happens?

Elizabeth

A. They are actually there three to four weeks prior to the encampment closing so that they can really get a handle on everyone that is in the encampment

Max

Q. What would be the timeline that this would start?

Elizabeth

A. There is the legislation for the funding so I am hoping by the end of March or April

Christina Parajon

* We have emergency winter beds at the Gibson Health Hub so those are just to help people survive during the winter. We have had about 200 referrals + at this time
* Heading Home Housing Case Management is moving in
* UNM Community Health Worker Initiative also moving in
* We had another huge donation of $500,000 from Sherwin Williams in paint and labor and it went to get the shelter ready
* The shelter will be opening in April
* We have about 50 overnight beds and we will probably serve up to 200 women a year with those beds. Everything we are doing will be focused on housing
* We have Family Housing Navigation Center, formerly known as the Wellness2 Hotel. We housed 900 people out of that hotel in the past two years that we have had that open so we will be applying the same model that we learned a the Family Shelter for Gateway.
* The receiving area will also be opening in April; it is not a crisis triage center. The receiving area will be for men and women. It will be a point of connection to services; we are talking about the coordination of care.
* We see that UNM will fulfill that gap I our community; it should be thought of as an emergency shelter for first responders
* We anticipate Albuquerque Fire and Rescue will be bringing a lot of people to the sobering center which is opening in the fall with about 50 beds and then we will have a medical respite that will be opening in the fall as well serving about 320 people a year.

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

* Today we said goodbye to one of our detectives, Mike Sciarrillo, he had to move suddenly with his family to Texas. Mike ran our Mobile Crisis Team for years. He did all the training and basically set the majority of the program up. He leaving is a big loss; he was a top producer in every role we ever asked him to take on.
* The CIU has been filing many, many emergency firearm restraining orders this month and last month. At this point, our division has probably filed more ERFPO’s than the entire state combined. The reason why these are significant is these aren't just little threats. These are major threats. We're talking mass casualty shootings that are averted by the hard work of this group. CIU has always changed lives, but now they are saving lives on a large scale with these gun restraining orders.
* The coordinators have been teaching tons of classes; they are an extremely busy team
* We go another request from the public defender’s office to do de-escalation training for that group

**Sub-Committees Report and Updates**

ACS did a good job talking about how their referral process works and how thing go between 911 and 311

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

**Next meeting: March 21, 2023**