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

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Max Kauffman Disability Rights of New Mexico

Cmdr. M. Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

Chief Emily Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mariela Angel-Ruiz Albuquerque Community Services

Robert Salazar NAMI Representative

Paula Burton NAMI Representative

Wendy Linebrink-Allison New Mexico Crisis Line

David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Betty Whiton NAMI

Gilbert Ramirez/Ellen Braden Family & Community Services

**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**

Ten (10) Board Members were present, nine members and Ellen Braden was a representative for Gilbert Ramirez (names listed above)

**Welcome First-Time Guests**

Michel Faust, Social Worker

Director for Quality Improvement for Molina Health Care

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1st Motion – Robert Salazar

2nd Motion – Matt Dietzel (Cmdr.)

Minutes from the March 2023 meeting were approved.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

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

No nominations were made this month

**Fathom Meeting Summary:**

* Dr. Winograd and Commander Dietzel conducted a staffing study of the Crisis Intervention Division and the number of ECIT officers within the Albuquerque Police Department. They found that based on current and future workloads, more home-visit detectives, clinicians, and coordinating detectives are needed.
* Dr. Winograd presented a staffing study to the group, highlighting the need for more detectives and clinicians in APD's Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU). He also discussed the importance of the newly implemented computer system, Mark, and the responsibility of CIU for referrals related to red flag firearm protective orders and potential school shooters. ACS was also discussed, with the need for 24/7 staffing emphasized.
* Max, Dr. Winograd, Commander, Sgt. Lowry and Mariela discussed the progress and accomplishments of the Albuquerque Police Department, particularly the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) and the Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS). They also expressed frustration with criticisms of the department and emphasized the need for a stronger health system to support the work of CIU and ACS.
* The group discussed issues with the current mental health system, including the lack of infrastructure and quality programs and the negative impact on first responders and hospitals. They also touched on the problem of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities not being properly tracked in the data.
* The group discussed how officers should handle calls involving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). They emphasized the importance of understanding the motivation behind the behavior and making accommodations before resorting to arrest.
* Mariela gave updates on the hiring push and testing on their graveyard shift. They also discussed the need for additional funding for dedicated personnel and the importance of changing the narrative around the ACS's role in solving homelessness.
* The group discussed the recent news that APD wants to reduce its response to behavioral health calls and have ACS take on more of those calls. Mariela expressed surprise at the news and stated that ACS will need additional funding and time to hire more clinicians to handle the increased workload. The group also discussed the city's lack of transparency and engagement regarding this decision.
* The group discussed recent changes to the Albuquerque Police Department's mental health training and clarified that there would be no changes to the current training programs. They also discussed the successful closure of an encampment and the process of getting individuals into motels for case management.
* During the meeting, updates were given on the encampment closure process and three major staff members leaving APD, causing concern for the clinical side of the house. The policy and training subcommittees also provided updates, with minor changes made to the body camera policy and discussions on academy training.
* The minutes were approved and Maxwell discussed a new policy for discipline required for the level of force. Paula brought up the concern and Matt promised to explain the forms and standards in the next sub-committee meeting.

**APD CIU Staffing Study, Dr. Peter Winograd**

APD CIU Staffing Study Presentation can be found under **“Other”** on the City Web page link listed below:

[www.cabq.gov/mental-health-response-advisory-committee/mental-health-response-advisory-committee-documents](http://www.cabq.gov/mental-health-response-advisory-committee/mental-health-response-advisory-committee-documents)

* One of the things that the DOJ Monitors have been asking for is an updated staffing study of the Crisis Intervention Division which was conducted by me and Peter Vielehr over the months of January, February, and early March. We also looked into the number of eCIT officers within the Albuquerque Police Department.
* In the 16th Independent Monitor’s Report, APD’s reforms were in full compliance for 23 of the 27 Crisis Intervention paragraphs in the CASA. The monitors stated that they still have concerns about APD’s ability to use behavioral health data for management purposes and about the increase in OISs involving individuals in crisis.
* Based on current workloads, the CID needs 10 home-visit detectives, 3 clinicians, and 2 coordinating detectives.
* The number of cases referred to CID is likely to increase, resulting in a need for additional home-visit detectives and clinicians.
* Approximately 50% of the officers in the Field Services Bureau are ECIT-certified and these officers responded to almost 80% of behavioral health calls in 2022.
* In 2022, the MCT responded to over 2,300 calls for service and the remaining COAST staff member worked with 107 home visiting cases and referrals. These calls for service and referrals are likely to increase in 2023. Since these two response models are collaborative efforts between APD and ACS, staffing decisions should include both agencies.
* This study uses the framework of police-mental health collaborations which also includes four measures of success: increased connections to resources; reduced repeat encounters; minimized arrests; and reduced use of force. The data indicate that APD’s staffing (and policy and training) efforts have resulted in low rates of arrest and use of force. There is fewer data on how well APD and other community partners are doing in terms of connecting individuals in crisis to effective resources and reducing the number of repeat encounters with law enforcement. Success on these two measures could help with APD’s behavioral health-related staffing needs in the future.

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) Update, Mariela Angel-Ruiz**

* ACS Division Manager, Jeff Bustamante, and Supervisor Walter Adams were introduced.
* We are in an amazing space but also challenging because we are still in the process of growing
* In FY23 we asked for 11 million and it got reduced by less than 4 million out of concern that ACS would not be able to hire as quickly as they thought we could so we spent our money down on staff.
* We are doing a hiring push; as of December 2022, we were already at over 87% of our hiring for the new money that we requested. We now have approved funding so we will be able to hire the rest of our staff to go 24-7. We are not ready to go 24-7 as we are testing.
* We did a testing with the graveyard shift where we worked two teams a night from the hours of 8:00 – 6:00 am and we had a total of 104 calls in the 7 days.
* Safety was the biggest risk that we take at the graveyard shift but we did not have many issues.
* We got a lot more calls on intoxication.
* After 9:00 pm we had a lot more people willing to let ACS take them to the shelter(s).
* ACS some much higher risk unsheltered individuals that had other types of serious issues.
* ACS has some DVs and some sexual assaults.
* I am going back and forth on whether or not ACS should do Judo for self-defense.
* We have put in, we asked for some new positions so that we could have a little more screw kind of purposeful individuals in certain areas of town because those call numbers are showing pretty clearly now where there are a lot more issues. Unfortunately, we don't think we'll see that funding come through. We do have, as I said, the funding to go 24 seven, but having personnel in those locations will be a little more difficult, dedicated personnel.
* We might potentially see one-time funding for CIP.
* Hopefully, we will do a grand opening in the summer of next year.
* Our hope is by the end of this calendar year we will be fully staffed, which will be about 121 individuals
* The southeast is just one area that we focus on.

**Increasing ACS Response in Place of APD, Mariela Angel-Ruiz, and Commander Dietzel**

* The news stated that APD wants to reduce its response to behavioral health calls and have ACS take on more of those calls. Mariela expressed surprise at the news and stated that ACS will need additional funding and time to hire more clinicians to handle the increased workload. The city's lack of transparency and engagement regarding this decision was also discussed.

**City and DOJ Monitors Revisions to the CASA Regarding Mental Health Training**

Commander Dietzel

* There aren’t going to be any changes; we are still going to have the cadets go through their basic training for state certification and we are still going to do the 40-Hour CIT class and the eCIT classes.

**Gibson Health Hub, Family & Community Services, Elizabeth Holguin**

* **Gibson Health Hub** will be expecting the first 50 women to come on April 21st.
* **Family & Community Services** had a recent encampment closure at 1st and Indian School and a new process that we have implemented with encampment guests and campers.
* There were over 160 people and some did go to shelters, but 140 of those were transported to motel rooms for case management by Street Connect and they are on the housing voucher pathway now.
* They’re getting all of their documents ready to go.
* We had a huge amount of help from ACS, Parks & Rec, Solid Waste, APD, and Metro Security. Street Connect got help from some community volunteers and a massive amount of intakes were performed over the next couple of days.
* We had food boxes from our Health and Social Service Center.
* It was a big collaboration to make this happen but excited that we were able to close an encampment that was dangerous for many. People were preyed upon there by others, not in the encampment.

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

* Dr. Rosenbaum would be leaving Behavioral Science Services (BSS) at the end of May and moving out of state.
* Clinician Megan Aragon would be leaving the Crisis Intervention Division at the end of the week.
* Lisa Chavez will be leaving the Crisis Intervention Division/COAST at the end of April.

**MHRAC Sub-Committee Report and Updates**

Commander Dietzel – Infoshare/Resources/Policy Sub-committee

* We covered two policies; very minor changes to both.
* 2-8 ORBD
* 2-79 LEAD
* We talked about how the board members could assist in staffing cases with Sgt. Tinney
* We had a conversation with the CPOA about police officers and civilian complaints that are not completely rooted in reality, but civilians continuously complain and expect results. Ideas were brought up on how that could be handled and what the MHRAC thinks would be a good way to remedy those kinds of complaints that are completely baseless and can be proven with video footage.

Paula Burton – Training Sub-committee

* We had a productive meeting as we talked about some of the academy training
* We reviewed some updates and kept current with new initiatives APD is implementing.

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

**Meeting Transcribed by Fathom**

**Next meeting: May 16, 2023**