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

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Max Kauffman Disability Rights of New Mexico

Cmdr. M. Dietzel / Lt. J. Gonzales Crisis Intervention Division

Chief E. Jaramillo / Chief C. Ortiz Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mariela Angel-Ruiz / Joshua Reeves Albuquerque Community Services

Paula Burton NAMI Representative

David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Mary Perez UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Rosenbaum APD Behavioral Science Services

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**

There were ten (10) Board Members present, seven (7) are MHRAC members, and three (3) are representatives. Chief Ortiz was a representative for Chief Jaramillo, Lieutenant Gonzales was a representative for Commander Dietzel, and Joshua Reeves was a Representative for Mariela Ruiz-Angel (names listed above).

**Welcome First-Time Guests**

Victor Olvera – New Home Visit Detective for the APD Crisis Intervention Division

Josh Sprunger – Molina Health Care

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1st Motion – David Ley

2nd Motion – Paula Burton

Minutes from the April 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 AI Summary:**

* Joshua Reeves gave an update on the expansion of their operations and their plans for refinement in the new fiscal year. He also shared that the director, Mariela, and Chief Medina presented the ACS model at Harvard and received positive feedback, positioning them as a standard for alternative response in public safety.
* Max, Joshua Reeves, and David Ley discussed the Albuquerque model and its potential criticisms and suggestions. They also discussed the challenges and opportunities of expanding the model to include licensed clinicians and the possibility of seeking Medicaid funding.
* The group discussed various updates and issues, including exploring the implications of separating department and agency, the need for more research on braided funding models, and the departure of Dr. Rosenbaum from APD BSS. They also mentioned an opening for a clinician to work with Mike Lucero, the Crisis Intervention Division Clinician on board now.
* The group discussed the transfer of vacant COAST positions to ACS due to budgetary transitions, and how this will affect the department's ability to handle CIU referrals. They also expressed gratitude towards Detective Jeff Jones and Dr. Rosenbaum and addressed concerns about the potential impact on costs.
* The group discussed a joint statement released by APD and DOJ regarding the transfer of workload from COAST to ACS and confirmed that it does not change how ACS is viewed by the DOJ. They also discussed upcoming meetings for the training and policy subcommittees.

**Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Joshua Reeves**

* We are still trying to expand our operations; we are in the middle of budget season so we won’t have great clarity on what everything will look like for probably a few more weeks.
* We are very hopeful that we’re going to be able to expand our coverage a bit.
* We are looking forward to the new fiscal year as a period of refinement
* The first couple of years for ACS have been about proof of concept showing that we can do this
* We see this next year as an opportunity for us to focus on our training and policies, ensuring that everything gets fine-turned and that we can provide our services as best as possible.
* The other thing we want to focus on is honing in on the messaging behind our mission and vision. I think there is a lot of misconception about what we are meant to do.
* Rightfully so, homelessness is a major topic for us but people mostly associate us as the primary purpose of ACS is to be case managers for unsheltered folks. We are created more for the behavioral health calls, the low to the mid-acuity behavioral health crisis that we can then divert away from the police department, and housing crisis is one form of a behavioral health crisis.
* We want the community to see us as an asset, a tool, and a resource for other behavioral health crises, such as clinical, like chronic mental health issues, suicidal ideation, welfare checks, and those types of situations that can be used to decrease touches with police in a good way.

Max

Q. Can you give us an update on the ACS presentation to Harvard University?

Joshua

A. Yes, ACS Director, Mariela, along with Chief Medina, and Mayor Keller represented the City of Albuquerque at a conference where they presented the ACS model to Chiefs of Police from across the country. They’re talking about innovations in policing and public safety. ACS received a lot of feedback that people were quite amazed at the innovation that we’re achieving in Albuquerque.

I think the message got across to other chiefs that just because you invest in alternative response and you believe in it does not necessarily take away from what police departments can offer municipalities and jurisdictions.

**Gibson Health Hub, Family & Community Services Update**

There was no representation for the Gibson Health Hub

**CIU, APD, and BSS Report and Update, Lt. John Gonzales**

* Dr. Rosenbaum, Director of APD Behavioral Science Services is leaving and taking a new job in New York
* We have an opening for a Clinician within the Crisis Intervention Division
* Detective Jeff Jones received the Detective of the Month award
* COAST positions have been absorbed by ACS

Max

Q. Is DOJ aware that the COAST positions have been given to ACS?

Joshua Reeves

A. I want to clarify that COAST will not live under ACS; we are using those positions to create more behavioral responders. Our behavioral health responders are taking referrals that would have otherwise gone to COAST if that makes sense.

**MHRAC Sub-Committee Report and Updates**

David Ley - Training Sub-Committee

* We covered a lot of curricula regarding policy

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos - Inforshare/Resources/Policy Sub-Committee

* The meeting for May had to be canceled

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

**Max**

In next month’s meeting, we have a lot of policies to go over

**Meeting Transcribed by Fathom**

**Next meeting: June 20, 2023**