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

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Cmdr. M. Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

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

Mariela Angel-Ruiz / Walter Adams Albuquerque Community Services

Paula Burton NAMI

David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Mary Perez UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Robert Salazar NAMI

Betty Whiton NAMI

Gilbert Ramirez 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**

There were ten (10) board members present, eight (8) MHRAC members, and two (2) representatives.

Chief C. Ortiz was a representative for Chief E. Jaramillo, and Walter Adams was a representative for Mariela Ruiz-Angel.

**Welcome First-Time Guests**

* Detective Santana Padilla – Albuquerque Police Department, Westside Impact Taskforce Unit
* Anami Dass, NMHRC, CABQ Human Rights Board Member, Chair of the Sub-committee on Mental Health
* Major Johnston, Oklahoma City PD, CIT Program
* Dianne, an interested community member and saw us on the City Website

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1st Motion – Betty Whiton

2nd Motion – Commander M. Dietzel

Minutes from the May 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:**

• David facilitated a meeting for the MHRAC committee, welcoming first-time guests and approving the minutes from the previous meeting. There was no need for public comment, and an agenda item was added to discuss the incident with Jesus Crosby after the CIU APD and BSS report update.

• During the meeting, Walter provided updates on ACS, including new leadership and five responders expected to graduate in July. Gilbert gave an update on the Gateway project, which received funding and is expected to open in the fall or potentially spring due to supply chain delays. David acknowledged the effective collaboration between CIU, the Mobile Crisis team, and his team in handling a potentially dangerous situation.

• David, Matt, John, Sgt., and AFR discussed updates on various boards and initiatives related to criminal justice and mental health. They also addressed a recent tragic incident involving APD and discussed the possibility of establishing a process for MHRAC representatives to work with the department in reviewing such incidents.

• David, Matt, and others discussed the Jesus Crosby incident and the possibility of conducting an officer-involved shooting review with MHRAC to identify training and coaching issues. They also mentioned previous incidents where MHRAC had assisted in identifying potential issues and the department's independent review of every officer-involved shooting that happened last year.

• Matt, David, and other committee members discussed scheduling a review of a crisis intervention team's response to a suicide situation, with concerns raised about legal issues and the need for urgency in preventing future deaths. Other committee reports were given, and the meeting was adjourned after an hour.

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

* Five responders just finished their training and are now on OJT; they will be expected to graduate in mid-July and will be working the streets soon.
* We had a change in leadership, Jeffrey Bustamante is now Deputy Director of the ACS Violence Intervention Program.
* Our new Deputy Director of the ACS Overfilled Operations is Layla Dehaiman just started this week.

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

* We had our construction kickoff meeting for our Medical Sobering Project about looking at the space and moving forward so we are waiting for our environmental and mechanical reports to come back.
* Many folks have contributed to funding this project for which we are very grateful.
* The tentative plans for mid-sobering are to have 50 beds available for up to 24 hours of medical care and oversight for folks to have a safe place to sober up.
* We have been in conversation with the National Sobering Collaborative President who may come on as a Technical Assistant Contractor with the City as we set up our protocols and processes with AFR for criteria as to who and what candidates would be best served by the Medical and Sobering Center.
* We hope to have an engagement center where we will have core partners and providers available to use space there to connect those who are unhoused to services.
* We have the medical sobering piece, the sheltering piece, and our last one is our medical respite piece which we are now moving into full design and security funding for that as well to move forward and have beds available for unhoused folks who are discharging from hospitals that need longer term care to heal so that they are not cycling in and out of expensive emergency hospital ERs for regards to their recovery for their aliments and or need to heal.
* You may have seen some new signage over at the building. We’ve been having some wonderful neighborhood association meetings about fencing and the type of fencing that may go up around the property.

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

David Ley

I want to acknowledge that my team collaborated with the CIU, Sgt. Tinney’s team, and the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT). The CIU reached out to us with concern about a person who had illegally purchased a firearm and was upset with my team. It was a very effective collaboration flow of information back and forth and the CIU kept everybody safe.

Commander Dietzel

I just want to recognize our clinician, Michael Lucero, who did a ton of work on that call and the detectives did a great job.

Commander Dietzel

Several boards are running at the same time which seem to talking about the same population and the same people that we all work with. One of those groups is the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council so it is the City, County, DA’s office, and the Public Defender’s Office; anybody who is involved in Criminal Justice. So in one of the subcommittees right now, we’re working on getting the specialty courts recognized by officers in the street so they can refer directly to the specialty courts. This is all up to the court and the judges and the attorneys have a bit of input. This is to flag certain people that we know would benefit from a specialty court at the time of arrest or citation.

The State Supreme Court put together a Commission on Mental Health and Competency Board which is similar to MHRAC’s. A lot of people on MHRAC’s board are on that board. We had a retreat in Santa Fe and one of the big things that is coming out of all this is there going to be a pilot project specifically designed for individuals who’ve enrolled who have competency issues. Right now those cases are just dismissed; they get nothing from the system. They do not get any help or any penalties. The goal is not to penalize the population; it is to hopefully make things better. We’re not arresting the same person with zero results over and over and over. So I’m thinking that is going to come online probably by January. Justice Zamora is pushing this; this is something she has been working hard on. I know it is going to launch in Bernalillo County probably in January-ish.

Lt. Gonzales

Dr. Rosenbaum’s last day was Friday, June 9th, and we likely have the next person to fill that role.

Sgt. Lowry

MCT had an in-service day which turned out very well. It was informative and it was good to run the clinicians through some extreme scenarios and they too did very well.

We continue to collaborate and brainstorm new ways of training everybody.

Commander Dietzel

We have an opening for a detective within the follow-up team. We have six detectives who applied so we will probably have results in July.

**Albuquerque Fire Rescue Update, Chief Ortiz**

I appreciate the work that the Gateway is doing in terms of the sobering sight; it is going to be huge for a lot of the first responders in the city to not only get people the resources they need ultimately but help alleviate some of the low acuity call volumes and help out some of the folks so we’ve been happy to help along with that process.

AFR has been working with ACS on formulating some training plans and working their academy classes and then working closely with Commander Dietzel and a lot of his officers on the CRU site to help with training and make us better in terms of response.

**APD, OIS, Jesus Crosby Clarification, Commander Dietzel**

There was an incident last fall with an individual who unfortunately died. He had a conflict with APD in the parking lot involving behavioral health issues.

Co-chairs Rachel Biggs and Max Kauffman have been having ongoing conversations with the city and APD about working to establish some process whereby representatives of MHRAC would work with the department in some review capacity around such incidents that involve issues related to MHRAC, mental health, or unhoused issues.

**MHRAC Sub-Committee Report and Updates**

**Training Sub-Committee**

We had a really good review and discussion of curricular changes for ACS, and some upcoming work they're doing with their new class of trainees.

We also discussed eCIT in terms of the percentage that APD is working towards. I think the department is going to continue with the numbers that they've established previously and continue forward on that. The committee will work with them if there is a need to change that.

**Inforshare/Resources/Policy Sub-committee**

The meeting scheduled for May had to be canceled.

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

**Meeting Transcribed by Fathom**

**Next meeting: July 18, 2023**