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

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Max Kauffman Disability Right of New Mexico

Rachel Biggs ABQ. Health Care for the Homeless

Laura Nguyen Albuquerque Ambulance

Matt Dietzel APD Crisis Intervention Division

Paula Burton NAMI Peer Representative

Rob Nelson APD/CIU/C.O.A.S.T

Emily Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Department

Joe Aranda Hopeworks

Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Mariela Ruiz-Angel Albuquerque Community Safety

Mary Perez UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Nils Rosenbaum APD Behavioral Science 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, Max Kauffman**

Twelve of the Board Members were present (names listed above)

**Welcome first-time guests**

Joshua Isler

Field Officer for eight years with the Albuquerque Police Department. I started a new position with the Crisis Intervention Division as a detective.

Michael Trimm

Executive Director of Services and Administration for the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico

**Approval of meeting minutes**

1st Motion – Rob Nelson

2nd Motion – Laura Nguyen

Minutes for the May meeting were approved

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

No Public Comment was given.

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

No nominations were made

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department update, Mariela Ruiz-Angel**

* We have really good numbers
* We have been transitioning into a new data system similar to APD; we wanted to have a call for service that is attached to a CAD so we can keep better data and a better way to filter down. APD will not be able to see our information but we will be able to see some of theirs.
* We started with 300-400 calls and we always knew at some point we could get to 2000-3000 calls. In May we took a little over 1700 calls for service and 1100 of those calls were diverted from APD.
* We have not been able to hire our newest responders but as we move into a new fiscal year starting July 1, that will happen then
* We received an additional $5 million this year for the fiscal year 2023; with the additional funding we will be able to hire more people
* We have television and radio commercials
* We are experiencing employees who have been struggling with their own mental behavioral health and have to figure out how we assess that issue and work through it. We have been leaning on other cities and our employee assistance programs
* We have outgrown City Hall so we are going to be moving to the Gateway Center in August so we can have more space to expand. We are probably going to have another open house.

James Ogle

Q. Has APD started to realize the relief that ACS seems to be picking up, Matt?

Commander Dietzel

A. APD never see the ACS calls they go straight to ACS unless there is an ACS shift change and then those calls that have not yet been responded to will go back into the CAD and then officers see those pending calls at that point.

Laura

Q. I'm wondering if you've looked into tying into the existing network within the system of peer support and mental health for first responders because you guys have definitely fit yourself into that network.

Mariela

A. Yes, we have been through all of it. The city offers quite a few services, but the reality is we want it to be very specialized.

James Ogle

Q. Does the data show a decrease in calls for service for APD?

Mariela

A. We haven’t seen a huge depletion of calls for service at APD.

Max

Q. Were you able to speak about this new idea about VIP and connecting ACS and the schools?

Mariela

A. ACS incorporated the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) and still has a police VIP piece to it. Kellogg provided VIP a grant, just under a million dollars, for a pilot program at West Mesa High School, based on Violence Intervention. We’re still in the process of developing the model, very specific to mirroring the Oakland, California, model. The model is a violence intervention program to identify individuals who are at the highest risk of shooting or being shot to reduce violence through targeted interventions. Staff will work actively to mediate conflicts and prevent retaliatory violence between those who are at risk of committing or becoming the victims of gun violence.

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

* We have been working really hard to prepare the Health Hub space for ACS and the VIP. We are really excited to have the integration of the services.
* Today we had our zoning hearing for our conditional use permit and we’re waiting for the result which usually comes within 15 days.
* We had our first good neighbor agreement meeting and we’re in the process of scheduling more of those in the upcoming month.
* In terms of construction, the populations that are experiencing homelessness on the streets are Native Americans; the big concentration for Gateway will be to create a space that is welcoming and we will be able to bring Native Americans off the street to help them get housing.

Rachel

Q. When will the contractor for the Gateway Center be announced?

Cristina

We are very close to finalizing that decision. We have some administrative things we have to take care of to get the paperwork and everything through the process.

Max

Q. The meeting that you had at the Neighborhood Association, how did that go, and what kind of feedback did you get from the association?

Cristina

A. We released the Good Neighbor Agreement “draft” to five surrounding neighborhoods and the six presidents; the meeting was held at the Gateway in our new conference space. The Neighborhood Associations came back with their edits and that was very helpful; it eliminated the back-and-forth, and gave the Gateway Center something to work off of, which made for a productive discussion on the first section of the Neighborhood Agreement. We plan to look at each section at a different meeting. We are now going back to see what the city can do and what the city can accept as changes for that document that can help speed things along.

Max

Q. Are the changes going to be something you can work with, or are the lines strictly drawn?

Cristina

A. It’s a legally binding document so our legal team is reviewing it and they also have a lawyer that is helping them with the review. I can’t speak to the specificities of what we can and cannot accept, that will become known when the Good Neighbor Agreement is agreed on and signed.

**SOPs, Homicide Unit 1-53, Max Kauffman**

We were given the opportunity to review this SOP. We didn't have much feedback; I looked at it but I didn't see much on how it ties to what we do here? So I didn't think that we would have much feedback. Does anyone have any thoughts about this SOP that you didn't get a chance to email out to the committee?

Commander Dietzel

This is one of those legacy policies that were around MHRAC review a long time ago when crisis intervention was still under the Criminal Investigation Division. I think that's why it comes to MHRAC but there's nothing about homelessness or mental health.

**ACS SOP’s 2-20 Dress Code, and 2-27 Child Abuse and Neglect, Max Kauffman**

Did anyone have any thoughts about SOP 2-20?

Laura

I found a double negative in the footwear and I sent a note to Jasmine, but I don’t think that is really the most pressing matter before MHRAC.

Max

SOP 2-20 Dress Code has been approved by the MHRAC.

Max

Did anyone have any thoughts about SOP 2-27? I think it looks pretty solid.

Max

Q. It talks about educational neglect. What happens when you see educational neglect and how does that look, are you thinking in terms of absences from school-type things or neglect from within the school where they’re not getting the services that they need to go to school?

Mariela

A. I think it’s a little bit of potential fraud mostly because we have seen that on both ends. ACS can define if it’s better, if it’s just for education, with or without parents or guardians, or any of the above.

Max

Q. Do you mean the way it's referenced as it is, is just to be as broad as that as you stated? So whether it's in school or at home, any type of neglect related to education?

Mariela

A. Yes

Max

So then it probably doesn't need to be clarified unless others think otherwise if you intended it to be that broad. I see CYFD involvement and police involvement in this but I often feel there is a missing component in the managed care organizations for children who have care coordinators, who are entitled to a broad range of services and coverage of services under Medicaid for children. I just don't know where to place it within the SOP. If we do supplement, our recommendation would be to add that piece to it, to incorporate integrating the managed care organizations and Medicaid piece.

Mariela

If there's neglect, child abuse, or anything else, we won't even engage at that point because of the policy, processes, and protocols; we don't want to get in the middle.

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

* We finally have the Request for Quotes (RFQ) for the staffing study for CIU and eCIT and all that we have been looking at in the settlement agreement; I think that closed today. I don't have any indication that anyone has put in yet or has applied to do that work. But just so the board knows as part of that RFQ there are a couple of lines in there for community input and MHRAC is one of them.
* We're excited to have our new detective, Josh Isler. It's going to be great to be back up to full capacity. And we're looking forward to his training starting real soon.
* I just want to recognize Detective Mark LeClaire's work. Last Friday we had an autism event with Elevate the Spectrum. They donated 200 activity bags that include things like basic communication skills, a tablet, and headphones, all the things that will make communication in crisis a lot easier with those bags. Mark did a great job organizing the entire thing and setting that up for us.
* A copy of our 2022 revision to the Crisis Intervention Handbook was sent out. This is what we give to new detectives, existing detectives, and COAST; everybody in the entire division gets a copy of this. It's the easiest way to determine what we do from start to finish.

**Sgt. Matt Tinney**

* We tried coffee with Crisis Intervention Unit where COAST and the detectives met with different community providers throughout the city.
* Detective Jeff Jones, with the Crisis Intervention Unit, completed the first ERFPO, that's the Extreme Risk Firearms Protection Order. He had a mother that was concerned about her son; he met the son who had a lot of firearms and had staged them to hurt himself and some other folks. Jeff, along with the mother, trying to help the son was able to get that and hold on to the guns to get him into help. It was a two-week process, but he was the first to do it and it was a success. Hopefully, we can get the son stabilized and into long-term treatment.

**COAST Update, Rob Nelson**

COAST was granted a moderate amount of money from Albuquerque One. And, we have some success stories that we've had with this funding. In the past, we couldn’t do this. We would have to call a church to try and get funding and it would take 48 to 72 hours to get anything connected. With this money, we can make on-the-spot decisions and change people’s lives with it.

**Sub-Committees Report and update**

Paula Burton

Training Sub-Committee update:

* We have been going through some ACS policies and training and from what I see it looks pretty good.
* We just had a CIT 40-Hour Training.
* Our next meeting is in July and I saw one message come through; it is something that someone wanted us to review.

**MHRAC Final Discussion (5 minutes)**

Max Kauffman

This morning I sent the MHRAC members a forwarded message about the city and county's joint strategic plan, their process, and the way that they're seeking feedback. You can submit your feedback through email as long as we can compile enough feedback to generate a recommendation or input and send that off to the city. As I look at this, I know this is right up our alley. No, it is not explicitly tied to law enforcement, but I do think it is within our purview to look over and provide feedback. We can discuss this now or we can discuss this at our Inforshare Sub-Committee meeting.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2022**