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

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Maxwell Kauffman Disability Rights of New Mexico

Rachel Biggs Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

Commander Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

Chief E. Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mariela Angel-Ruiz / Walter Adams Albuquerque Community Services

Paula Burton Peer Representative

David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Mary Perez UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

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. Policies are one of the things where the MHRAC is involved with assisting in writing, 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 eleven (11) board members present, ten (10) MHRAC members, and one (1) representative.

Walter Adams was a representative for Mariela Ruiz-Angel.

**Welcome First-Time Guests**

Anna Horner

Bernalillo County Health Equity Council. They do a lot of work with public health.

Beckham “Beck” Rivera

Substituting as counsel for the meeting on behalf of Andrew Magida, Policy Attorneys, City Legal.

Dr. Nicole Duranceaux, Psychologist

Director of Behavioral Science Services for the Albuquerque Police Department

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1st Motion – Paula Burton

2nd Motion – David Ley

Minutes from the August 2023 meeting were approved by the MHRAC Board Members.

**Public Comment/Announcement**

Max Kauffman

I will be leaving Albuquerque shortly and my family and I will be moving to Washington State. I will be working for Disability Rights, Washington. This will be my last MHRAC meeting as a co-chair. I have been here for a few years so it is sad and hard to leave; I am going to miss you all. I want to say thank you to everyone supporting me and helping me overcome the learning curve of the issues affecting the Behavioral Health community.

Rachel

We will be looking for nominations for a new Co-chair. In the meantime, David Ley will be stepping in as Interim Co-chair.

We are still recruiting new committee members for MHRAC, specifically, people in the community who are providing behavioral health services, services in homelessness, and who have lived experiences in mental health and homelessness. If you are interested in learning more about MHRAC please reach out. Information will be in the chat.

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

No nominations were made this month

**Fathom Meeting AI Summary:**

* Rachel expressed their gratitude to The Arc of NM, David Ley, PhD., Sgt. Matt Tinney, APD, and Azka Naru, Gateway Manager.
* Rachel welcomed new guests Anna and Beckham, and Nicole introduced herself as the new head of BHSD.
* Max announced that he would be leaving MHRAC and thanked everyone for their support during his time as co-chair. David Ley will be the Interim Co-chair.
* In the discussion, Rachel, Walter, David, Commander Dietzel, and Dr. Azka provided updates on various community programs and initiatives. They discussed the success of the graveyard shift in handling calls, the positive impact of non-law enforcement response programs, and the progress.
* The Gateway Center in providing housing for women, and the establishment of collaborative case consultation for housing disposition. In the discussion, Dr. Azka provided updates on the progress of construction for medical respite and sobering facilities at Gateway Center. They also clarified that case management services at Gateway Center are available for women, while families need to go through the Family Housing Navigation Center for case management.
* Commander Dietzel explained that Special Orders (SO) are meant to quickly address problems without going through a lengthy policy review process. The Special Order discussed aimed to ensure that officers secure the scene before bringing in additional personnel during crisis situations, and it was developed in collaboration with the crisis negotiation team.
* The group discussed the need for feedback on a Special Order, with a deadline of September 22nd, and a script will be coming out soon. They also mentioned the Training Subcommittee's work and the updated resource card, which is being used citywide.
* Rachel, Commander Dietzel, David, and Maxwell discussed the creation of a new subcommittee to review and provide guidance on how officers respond to people in crisis or experiencing homelessness. They also thanked APD for their support and discussed upcoming meetings and a case review related to mental health calls.

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

We are a little over three and a half weeks into our graveyard shift. We started August 26th; from then to this morning our graveyard shift has taken over 972 calls. Between our day, swing, and graveyard shifts, we have taken over 2856 calls.

**Commander Dietzel**

Jasmine Desidero, ACS, and I are presenting on Thursday to a nationwide forum on how to start up these not-law enforcement response programs. ACS is the model across the nation and this third tier of public safety is being recognized and visited by others across the country who want to start these programs in their area.

**Gibson Health Hub, Family & Community Services Update, Dr. Azka Naru and Gilbert Ramirez**

* The Gateway Center has been open and we’re currently receiving women.
* We have a total of 50 beds and as of today, we are at a census of 49, so it has filled up.
* We’re on an assessment that 42% of our guests have come in with minimum documents needed for housing and 15% have had some external case management. The majority have been between the ages of 45 and 64.
* We are providing onsite case management at the Gateway.
* We are going live with our Engagement Center on September 20th, which will be open and operational with providers that are going to be disseminating services. These services include sewing, fashion design, computer literacy training, GED prep classes, financial literacy sessions, culinary arts classes, parenting support and education, motivational training, and health education.
* Starting October 1st, we will have another provider coming on board who will offer services in life skills, job readiness, credit repair, and self-care.
* Family Housing Navigation Center was opened in 2020. Up-to-date, we have had 1008 people, including 638 children who have moved from homelessness into housing. Over half of the supporting housing vouchers have been city-funded.
* The Housing Navigation Center, an innovation has been established as a collaborative case consultation that we call housing disposition. This is what we’re mirroring at the Gateway. This collaboration includes case managers and housing navigators. We have rental assistance agencies that provide support with supportive housing vouchers. We have organizations and community partners that have helped bring services on-site or transport clients to their agencies.
* We are making headway on Medical Respite and Sobering Peace. For Medical Respite, we are in the process of getting bids for the construction, and according to the plan, construction will begin in the next 60 days. We are expected to complete that by next year.
* The Family and Community Service Department (FCS) is very large and the split is now Health, Housing, and Homelessness (HHH) aka Triple H which will maintain Behavioral Health Services and our four health and social service site centers. It will keep our community development within our department as well as our initiatives for those around housing and homelessness. The Director is still Carol Pierce.
* The second department is Youth and Family Services (YFS), and they are going to keep the Community Centers, Early Childhood Development Centers, and a small division that we have called Senior Centers to primarily manage the funding. The Director is Kararina Sandoval.
* Joseph Montoya from Triple H will be giving a presentation on housing at the October MHRAC meeting.

**CIU, APD, and BSS Report and Update, Commander Dietzel, Sgt. Lowry, Sgt. Tinney**

* We have our Policy Revision Process and then we have Special Orders (SO). Special Orders are when things need to be fixed in a quick way. If we see a problem we try to fix it without a full policy review which can take months.
* We would like the SO that was sent out via email on Friday, September 15th to the MHRAC Board for review to be back to us by September 22nd.
* There will also be a script to review that will be sent to the MHRAC Board soon.
* In August we had 503 referrals; I was able to assign 113 of them.
* We lost ACS as a resource for when officers are looking for additional follow-up for helping people with resources; so we are seeing a hurt in that loss.
* The Homevisit team was able to go to the FBI Threat Assessment and Threat Management Symposium and we were able to present on things. It was nice to be able to encourage other agencies across the country to use jail diversion when someone might be making threats that could be associated with a mental health disorder.
* We are working with BCSO the county Sheriff’s Office to help them revamp their CIT/MCT Program. They will be coming out to do ride-a-longs with us to learn more about how APD CIT/MCT does things.

**MHRAC Sub-Committee Report and Updates**

Training Sub-Committee

* We were only allowed to advise or see training for CIU and BHS; then we started getting involved with training for Tactical, SWAT, APD Academy, ACS, and AFR. Are there any groups that are connected with behavioral health and homelessness issues within the city first responders activities that the Training Sub-Committee could assist with?
* We did not meet in August.

Inforshare/Resources/Policy Sub-committee, Commander Dietzel

* We canceled the meeting due to not having any policies to cover.
* The Resource Cards that the sub-committee helps put together have been updated and the order for the new Resource Cards has been placed but we have not received them yet.
* We have several city departments ( Solid Waste, ACS, Triple H) that use the Resource Cards and it is because of the sub-committee that gets them updated.

**MHRAC Final Discussion, Rachel Biggs and Commander Dietzel**

* Rachel, Commander Dietzel, and Max met with DC Lowe regarding more involvement with Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) which involves people with behavioral crises or experiencing homelessness.
* We have decided to create another sub-committee that will be held every other month to start and we are thinking about who might represent MHRAC for that meeting. David Ley might be filling in as an Interim. If MHRAC committee members are interested in being on this new committee send Rachel an email so we can come up with a core group of people.
* The Special Order (SO) that we discussed will probably be the first case we discuss in that sub-committee. So far, in 2023, there has been one Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) that could be classified as a mental health-related call.
* That’s been to the review process on the APD side all the way to the Force Review Board.
* The press release has already happened.

**Meeting Transcribed by Fathom and Revised by Brenda Vigil-Gallegos**

**Next meeting: October 17, 2023**