

MHRAC Training Subcommittee Report 2022

Co-Chairs Paula Burton & David Ley

Pursuant to DOJ Consent decree: Paragraph 111: The Advisory Committee shall analyze and recommend appropriate changes to policies, procedures, and training methods regarding police contact with individuals with mental illness. Paragraph 113: The Advisory Committee shall also be responsible for ...identifying training needs, and providing guidance on effective response to a behavioral crisis event.

MHRAC Training Subcommittee participants include: representatives from APD CIU, APD BSD, APD Academy, ACS, NAMI Albuquerque, AFR.

MHRAC Training subcommittee set the expectations that training in CABQ, APD and ACS on mental illness and homelessness are consistent across trainings. We expect trainings to be developed from a needs assessment, to include learners guide, instructors guide, training materials and evaluations. MHRAC Training Subcommittee prioritizes trainings to include the experiences of persons with mental illness and homelessness.

2022 Accomplishments of MHRAC Training Sub-Committee and CIU:

- The MHRAC Training subcommittee continued its work uninterrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing Zoom and remote protocols.
- The combined MHRAC and CIU training committee continued to review and advise on improving the CIT and Academy behavioral health trainings. The Subcommittee reviewed Reality Based Training curricula for officers.

The Subcommittee was pleased to assist the Department in developing a script for creation of an MOE “Gap” video to address concerns about a federal training video suggesting use of deception in interactions with individuals with dementia or cognitive disorders. This concern was raised, and addressed, by Department CIU leadership, in a manner which demonstrated commitment to person-centered models of interaction.

- MHRAC Training subcommittee worked closely with Albuquerque Community Safety on reviewing their training plans, and goals on engaging with individuals experiencing mental health and homelessness issues. Suicide prevention and triage trainings were added to ACS training curriculum as a result of this collaboration.
- The 2022 CIT International Conference was held in Pittsburg this year, and APD was able to send a total of 9 CID members. Detective Mike Sciarillo, Acting Sergeant Shannon Miera, and Lieutenant Charles Crook all attended the CIT Program Coordinator Certification Course, the only training in the country that certifies CIT Training Coordinators. Commander Matt Dietzel was an invited key note speaker, and he facilitated a class titled “CIT Oversight”. Detective Ben Melendrez partnered with CIT ECHO Project Coordinator Kim McManus and facilitated a presentation about the APD’s Project

ECHO, highlighting the collaboration between UNMH and APD. The APD attendees, made up of training coordinators and follow-up detectives spent the week at dozens of classes on various topics.

- Over 2022 MHRAC Training Subcommittee worked closely with leadership of Albuquerque Fire and Rescue to enhance training consistency on mental illness and homelessness issues between departments in partnership with APD and ACS.
- Training plans and curriculum for Mobile Crisis Team officers and therapists was reviewed and advised by committee. MCT training was completed and is ongoing, as MCT transitioned to ACS. Established training plan for MCT clinicians was continued.
- The committee advised and reviewed development of behavioral health trainings related to enacting Certificates for Evaluation, for officers and community members.
- APD CIU department provided three forty hour CIT classes to (X)75+ officers, 4 classes of CIT for 136 students from 13 different agencies including 28 APD Academy cadets. 5 classes of ECIT with 87 officers, 5 ECIT refreshers with 35 officers, 3 telecommunicator classes with 20 students.

Training Subcommittee Future Goals/Priorities (over 2023):

- Work with APD Academy on training schedule, curricula and plans related to homelessness.
- Continue work with Albuquerque Community Safety department on ongoing development of training strategies for ACS staff and programs.
- Will support creation of a training video for community clinicians about effective use of Certificates for Evaluation.