

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Co-Chair Danny Whatley	The Rock at Noon Day
Co-Chair Rick Miera	Executive Committee
Betty Whiton	NAMI
Cassandra Bailey	APD CIU
David Ley	New Mexico Solutions
Elizabeth Romero	UNM Department of Psychiatry
Gilbert Ramirez	CABQ-Dept. of Family & Comm. Services
Laura Nguyen	Albuquerque Ambulance
Leyna Ingerg	Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless
Matt Dietzel	APD CIU
Maxwell Kauffman	Law Offices of the Public Defender
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H.	APD Behavioral Health Division
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Rob Nelson	APD/C.O.A.S.T
Robert Salazar	NAMI Vice-President

Introduction to MHRAC

Danny

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee was created by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and have a focus on three areas, resources, 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 in. As far as the training that is offered, Bettys grouped with Donny and her connection there has been a great success story and continues to be. 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.

Welcome first-time guests

Terra Bernheisel

Civilian upset with all government agencies reporting they have not been helpful and have been harassing her.

Amanda Gabaldon

Director of Business development for Haven Behavioral Health

Lisa K. Jackson
Envive Solutions, LLC

Danny Padilla
A sergeant with the Albuquerque Police Department (APD); I am here to gain more knowledge about this community.

Nanette Herrera, CSW
Christian Counseling Professional; I mainly deal with homeless and persons with disabilities and or substance use disorders.

Gary Housepian
Disability Right NM

Approval of meeting minutes

1st Motion – Paula Burton

2nd Motion – Rick Miera

All were in favor of minutes as written.

Public Comment (Two minutes per person, 15 minutes total)

Terra Bernheisel
Civilian upset with all government agencies reporting they have not been helpful and have been harassing her.

James Ogle
Informing about future 988 number (behavioral health line). The development will be completed by end of July of 2022.

Wendy Linebrink
Response to James Ogle presentation: Collaboration for a better system of care at the National and State level.

Barri Robert (iPhone)
How pleased and grateful that this group continues to meet and address issues concerning the mentally ill and APD response.

Lisa Jackson
Agrees with connection with behavioral health treatment linkage referencing 988.

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Department Update, Mariela Ruiz-Angel

Lt. Dietzel
MCT will be under ACS. Director and Deputy Directors Interviews are starting Friday. APD has selected two more officers that we will be working with the two we currently have.

Danny

Do we know what kind of response we got regarding those who applied?

Lt. Dietzel

I have no idea yet.

Danny

Do we know how many people put in for the clinicians' positions?

Lt. Dietzel

Six or seven responded.

Wendy Linebrink

Q. How many clinicians will you be hiring for the Albuquerque Community Safety?

Lt. Dietzel

A. Four clinicians will be hired for MCT and may have a possible supervisor spot.

Wendy Linebrink

Q. Is the vision for this city MCT to be led along with police like Bernalillo County?

Lt. Dietzel

A. It will be a police officer in a marked car along with a mental health clinician.

Wendy Linebrink

Asked to be kept updated with the procedures as they prefer to use the least restrictive route, by bypassing 911, and going straight to MCT.

Lt. Dietzel

I think 988 might be the mechanism for that eventually.

Wendy Linebrink

The implementation of 988 instead of dialing a ten-digit number to the National Suicide Crisis line or AGORA they will dial three.

DC Jaramillo

Q. Directed to Wendy: Will you be willing to meet with Erika Wilson, Manager of the Emergency Community Center, and AFR Deputy Chief Mowery to lend your expertise to the dispatch group?

Wendy

A. "I will look forward to it."

Rick Miera

Q. How are we on the transport of individuals not needing to be in the back of the police car (APD vs. AFR)?

Lt. Dietzel

They are waiting for approval.

DC Jaramillo

Briefly mentioned discussions taking place regarding pediatric transportation (ambulance, APD, or another form) for ages 12 and under.

Maxwell Kauffman

Inquired about the 988 Intersection with ACS response.

Lt. Dietzel

Stated it will need to be worked out as to what calls will go to the police.

Wendy

The vision with the crisis centers across the state is that more 911 centers will look at 988 as another department. Communications Centers will have options to determine whether the call will go to Fire, APD, EMT, and eventually Mental Health.

New Gateway Centers Update, Quinn Donnay, Family, and Community Services

Quinn

In case we have any new folks here that are curious about what is Gateway; I will go back to February.

When we as a city evaluated some of our sites for Gateway, the top three sites were the Gibson Medical Center former Lovelace, somewhere north downtown, and UNM; UNM is out. We are still focused on the North Downtown and Gibson Medical Center because as you all know or some of you may not, we are no longer interested in a 300-bed facility so we are moving to multiple sites that are smaller in scale. This summer we formed the Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC) to continue creating options and thinking about community feedback and what exactly was the direction we were going to go which leads us to a press release that came out this week that the city is moving to purchase Gibson Medical Center Hospital. We are looking to fill community gaps there; nothing is set in stone. We are still brainstorming; it is a very large former hospital. For those of you that think it might be old and dilapidated, it is not, it is up to date, and it's not a total mess. It has a direct physical connection to the VA so that would allow us to help veterans experiencing homelessness connect quickly to the VA if they weren't already.

We hope that it would provide a path to permanent housing.

We are still looking into the North downtown facility. We have been approached by Hopeworks; they are interested in collaborating with the city in the North Downtown facility. It would mean some sort of smaller shelter to meet the need of both single men and single women. We are committed to multisite gateways, we're not using just the Gibson Medical Center.

Danny

Q. Regarding timeline on litigation of Gateway.

Quinn

A. It could go 18 months or mid-March depending on the judge's decision.

Danny

Q. Has the city looked at what needs to be renovated?

Quinn

A. I would say, yes, but we are sort of being blocked by the sellers on being able to design the types of spaces.

Danny

Q. Is the neighborhood leadership involved in those conversations?

Quinn

A. Yes, they are involved.

David

Q. Can Quinn elaborate on the litigation?

Quinn

A. The sellers are feuding among themselves over the amount and who has the right to sell.

Fall 2020 APD CIT Data, Matt Dietzel (PowerPoint Presentation)

Lt. Dietzel

Presented a PowerPoint (Fall 2020 Datebook) with graphs containing information regarding statistics relevant to calls for service and demographics.

He mentioned Lovelace hospital is underutilized and UNM and Presbyterian are overloaded.

Amanda Gabaldon

I noticed Haven is not on your list. We now have a direct telephonic admit to making admittance to Haven easier.

Lt. Dietzel

Discussed the need for a resolution on the time frame officers spend waiting for the consumer to be seen and the need to utilize more facilities.

Danny

Inquired from Lt. Dietzel, if it was something that could be included in the site visits in officer training.

Lt. Dietzel

I think that is an excellent idea once things are back to normal.

Nancy Martin, Presbyterian, Rio Rancho

Q. Does the datebook include Rio Rancho Police Department stats also?

Lt. Dietzel

This is only Albuquerque Police Department, does not include any other police departments.

Gary Housepian

Q. Do the stats reflect contact sheets when someone is homeless and has a mental illness?

Lt. Dietzel

A. In response to Gary Housepian's question, the answer is yes and the data is based on information provided to the officers by the individual.

Gary Housepian

Q. Do we have a form of identifying whether an individual is mentally ill and homeless?

Lt. Dietzel

A. The CIT form has questions regarding mental status and homelessness which are often self-disclosed or the officer has a long history with the individual.

Danny

Q. Are we expecting things to change once they go over to Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS)?

Lt. Dietzel

A. I hope that they not only work with the homeless population but individuals calling concerning family disputes.

Lt. Dietzel

Continuation of the Datebook Presentation

In reference to the Encounter data, we look at where are the hotspots, generally southeast is a lot higher but now Northeast stats reflect higher numbers from January-September of 2020

Laura Nguyen

Q. When an officer encounters someone who is under the influence, do they consider there may be under mental health condition and how is the information being generated and treated?

Lt. Dietzel

Response referenced, officers recognize many of the individuals under the influence are self-medicating. He reports, individuals high on meth are very hard to deal with so the use of force is not uncommon when it comes to encounters with those individuals as they are highly

agitated and difficult to direct. Officers have to document each time use of force is used including officers who were witnesses.

Lt. Dietzel

All datebooks are available on the MHRAC website: <https://www.cabq.gov/mental-health-response-advisory-committee>

Unknown

Q. Can you define intellectual disability?

Lt. Dietzel

A. Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem-solving) and in adaptive behavior, which covers a range of everyday social and practical skills. The disability originates before the age of 18.

Body Camera Legislation Update

Danny

Legislators have limited the number of laws they can bring to the table. I sent an email to the Attorney General's office to ask him to weigh in on this as far as the Inspection of Public Records act. The last time it was updated was 2015 before body camera stuff came out. So we are a little concerned about the language. First and foremost, a small municipality, Small County would have to create a whole new division and department as APD is and I don't know they could afford it.

Lindsay Van Meter

Update on IPRA Statute- the City isn't able to be the main requestor for any revisions, at least not this session. But if changes are realistic and would help to address this issue, the city is willing to join in someone else's request if someone is willing to take the lead on that.

Danny

David Ley reports the sexual assault survivor group has expressed an interest in being a part of this. MHRAC certainly wants to be a part of this.

James "Jim" Ogle

Jim as if there was any distinction made between the Mobile Crisis Team and your field officers.

Lt. Dietzel

Internally yes; the Mobile Crisis Team assigned officer goes out it can very easily be labeled as a mobile crisis team call in terms of how we view it internally.

Betty W

Reports NAMI is looking for a sponsor for a bill but we have not been able to locate someone willing to develop the bill and carry it.

Danny

I think that is one of the reasons why they were talking to Nancy Cohensberg, in trying to get her to help to write that to where there won't be any opposition to it.

Report and Update from CIU, APD, and BSS

Lt Dietzel

We have two new Mobile Crisis Team officers selected, but we haven't transferred them in yet. Field officers are very much in low supply and very busy out there. I wasn't going to have them transferred in until clinicians have been hired through ACS.

Report and Update from C.O.A.S.T

Rob Nelson

We have seen an upswing in field officer calls. It is not just the homeless, it is also people at risk of being evicted.

Report and Update from Sub-Committees

Paula Burton

We are meeting on Monday at 10:00 and can request the invite to Matt Dietzel.

Lt. Dietzel

Informed the group that the resource cards have been updated and need to be printed.

Della Munoz

With NAMI, reports they have approved in their budget to pay for the cards and just needs to call Printers Press.

MHRAC Final Discussion

Danny

Pont and time count Update: HUD requires every major city to do a count of homelessness. The count of the city is less than 1,500. These numbers reflect the year 2020. These numbers are larger since the last count.

Gilbert Ramirez

The 2021 point in time count will take place next week, and will count the number of people experiencing homelessness on Monday, January 25th. It will be a full count, meaning both people sleeping in sheltered and unsheltered locations will be counted. NM Coalition to End Homelessness leads and coordinates the PIT count.

Charlton Simmons

Report an increase in homeless families in the school system. States they send their families to the Wellness Center and Travel Lodge where they get a discounted rate.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

