

LWVCNM Observer Report Update for  
City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Open public meetings are held monthly (currently on Zoom). Meeting links, with the agenda and minutes are posted on the [MHRAC website](#).

Updates from the April 18 and May 16, 2023 meetings included:

- Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Report:
  - They are continuing to hire and train staff to provide more extended coverage since they are not available 24/7.
  - They have undertaken a pilot study providing overnight coverage with one team, to identify potential challenges/issues in providing service on that shift.
  - ACS recently received an adjustment to their budget to expand services, and are currently working to define the scope for the coming fiscal year.
  - The department plans to focus on messaging their mission and vision to the community in the coming year. They are working to refine processes and policies for providing services and support to people with chronic mental health needs and individuals in crisis. Their work with the unhoused population is a secondary focus.
- (Detailed info available on their website <https://www.cabq.gov/acs/transparency>)
- [Gateway Center at Gibson Health Hub](#) planned to open 50 overnight beds for women in April. Transition services to housing will be provided for these individuals. Timeline for additional services is available on their website.
- April meeting featured a presentation on APD/Crisis Intervention Unit Staffing and Outcomes by Dr. Peter Winograd, professor emeritus UNM School of Law, who was hired as a APD consultant. Full report should be posted with April meeting minutes, but summary of findings of police-mental health collaboration included:
  - Increased connections to behavioral health resources
  - Reduced repeat encounters with law enforcement
  - Minimized arrests
  - Reduced use of force encounters with people who have mental health needs

Dr. Winograd addressed the evolving role of ACS in supporting APD, but noted that their limited hours of operation, and the shortage of certified clinicians has impacted their ability to date.

Submitted by Lani Desaulniers 5/16/2023