



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

## Health Policy Review Committee Agenda

**The Health Review Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, 700 N Main, Room 2007A, Las Cruces, New Mexico.**

- I. Call To Order
- II. Conflict Of Interest
- III. Acceptance Of Agenda
- IV. Approval Of Minutes
- IV.I. July 7, 2021 Minutes

Documents:

[7.7.21 HEALTH PRC DRAFT MINUTES.PDF](#)

- V. Discussion Items
  - V.I. Mobile Crisis Unit - Ifo Pili
    - V.I.I. Survey Update - Human Resources
- VI. Action Items
  - VI.I. Complete Streets Ordinance Presentation - Mahesh Sita
    - VI.I.I. Meeting Date/Time
- VII. Future Discussion/Task Listing
- VIII. Next Meeting Date
  - VIII.I. September 1, 2021
- IX. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 575-541-2115/v or 575-541-2182/tty.

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# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces – Health Policy Review Committee** for July 7, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom.

**Members Present:**

- Yvonne Flores, City Councillor, District 6
- Kasandra Gandara, City Councillor, District 1
- Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, City Councillor, District 2

**Others Present:**

- Eric Enriquez, Administration
- Phil Catanach, Parks & Recreation
- Sonya L. Delgado, Parks and Recreation
- Paul Ford, LCFD
- Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life
- Audrey Barela, Parks & Recreation
- Jason Smith, LCFD
- Robert McCord, LCPD
- Karina Diaz
- Meg Haines

**I. Call to order: Councilor Abeyta-Stuve**

This meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Councilor Abeyta-Stuve.

**II. Conflict of Interest**

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked Councilors who are voting members to indicate if there is any conflict of interest. Councilor Flores stated none. Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated none. Councilor Gandara stated none.

**III. Acceptance of Agenda**

Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor Gandara.

1  
2 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.  
3

4 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

5 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the minutes from meeting  
6 held on June 2, 2021. Moved by Councilor Flores. Seconded by Councilor  
7 Gandara.

8 None opposed. All in Favor. Motion Carried.  
9

10 **V. Discussion Items**

11  
12 **A. Dona Ana Crisis Triage Center-Karina Diaz**

13 Ms. Diaz wanted to share information regarding the Crisis Triage Center. It is  
14 part of an organization that is wider across the nation called RI International. RI  
15 has partnered with Dona Ana County to provide services that the County  
16 wanted for the Community. She joined RI in March of 2021 and a lot of  
17 preparations were started before then and she has continued them since then.  
18 It is a facility that is open 24/7, 365 days a year providing crisis stabilization for  
19 the community, mental health/substance abuse any kind of crisis. The longest  
20 stay is 24 hours to get them to the next stage of recovery. Opening date was  
21 as of June 21<sup>st</sup> and have been running since. So far there have been a few  
22 guests. People who use the services are called guests, not clients or  
23 consumers. One nurse per shift along with peer support workers and a clinician  
24 and a psychiatrist available to provide telehealth. Triage is started as soon as  
25 someone comes through the doors and provide a nursing assessment followed  
26 by a psychosocial assessment and then a psychiatric evaluation. The whole-  
27 time, peers are engaging guests to de-escalate the crisis and work with them  
28 on the goals they have as individuals in their recovery process. Looking forward  
29 to partnering.

30 Councilor Gandara asked if there have been referrals from LCFD/LCPD to the  
31 center or if any conversation has been done regarding referrals. Chief Smith  
32 stated they have met with their medical director and performed an evaluation  
33 of state regulations on ambulance transport and the services provided by the  
34 Crisis center, at the time of the initial review before our meeting, under state  
35 guidelines he did not feel that the Crisis Triage center rose to the level of  
36 meeting what is required for an ambulance transport the way of definitive care,  
37 so that limits our option of transporting a patient via ambulance. The Crisis  
38 center will be re-evaluated by our medical director, and he gets into a position  
39 where he feels comfortable for us transporting, we will update our protocols. As

1 long as we clear them medically and they agree to go as it is a voluntary basis  
2 only. Mr. Mccord stated that LCPD does not use the Crisis Triage center is  
3 that they do not meet the State statute for protective custody issues. When  
4 someone is dropped off, they need to be in a locked facility where they will  
5 receive medical care. At this time, they need to be taken to a secured facility  
6 and the ER is the only place.

7  
8 B. Crisis Intervention Unit-Sgt Mccord/Paul Ford

9 Mr. Ford introduced Chandler Mathews, Public Health Intern and Alison Stoner,  
10 Social Worker, who works in the Opiate Outreach Program.

11 Mr. Enriquez stated that the Crisis Intervention Unit was put out for a Request  
12 for Proposal if the first time that was not successful with the Fire Department  
13 being the lead on that. Chief Smith worked on that RFP with it being posted in  
14 May 2021 for 30 days. A pre proposal meeting was held on June 10, and that  
15 went well with many vendors with many questions with the anticipation of many  
16 proposals. At the end of the 30 days there were no proposals submitted. The  
17 RFP is back to square one with getting a mobile integrated health program that  
18 would be consisting of a mental health provider Police and Fire working with  
19 them as a team. Some discussion with Chief Smith, with having put a  
20 PowerPoint together that I would like him to share.

21 Chief Smith shared a PowerPoint of Mental Health Services for the City of Las  
22 Cruces. After the second round for the RFP and not having any submittals, it  
23 was reviewed and after discussion it was thought to be important that we be  
24 very specific about the scope of this. With the competing thoughts and ideas  
25 on how to perform this function, we need to go out and do a study and determine  
26 what our actual experience is in the city. Get a recommendation on how this  
27 team should be formed. This will also help in the Budget process also getting  
28 buy in from both Fire Department, EMT, Police Department and provider in the  
29 Mental Health Community. We have focused on the study and presenting  
30 solutions. The RFP was not directly sent to any consulting groups. It has been  
31 sent to mental health providers. The RFP allowed for firms to work together to  
32 meet intent. Further discussions on options moving forward is that we re-issue  
33 the RFP for a third time soliciting research and consulting firms, perform studies  
34 in-house and contract out specific roles under purchasing guidelines. Another  
35 option is an LCPD Pilot Program not unlike other area Fire Department's who  
36 have Crisis Intervention Team programs. Most consist of a social worker and  
37 firefighter paired together. Funding needs are needing backfill and also  
38 contracting of a social worker. Some things working to our advantage is we  
39 have members in the department for research and study. This may be able to

1 be done in house with some funding to bringing in a specialist. Cases and  
2 efforts would be tracked and brought back to City Council.

3 Councilor Gandara asked what would be needed to get the Mobile Crisis Unit  
4 pilot up and running. Mr. Enriquez first wanted to state that purchasing has  
5 reached out to vendors on why there were no submissions. Dr De La Rosa from  
6 NMSU was instrumental from the get-go with the RFP, there were several visits  
7 with La Clinica on working with them in the future. There were a lot of resources  
8 used for the RFP. He also stated that he will work with Purchasing on how to  
9 sole source, get a coordinator and work with the Fire Department on getting  
10 this program off the ground and build on it from there.

11 Paul Ford updated the group on some other programs that are very hot topic.  
12 The Cahootes program is operated out of organ. The program does use an  
13 emergency medical technician paired with a behavioral health specialist. There  
14 is a lot of gray area but make up for that with the amount of infrastructure they  
15 have. They have different programs and places to transport these patients and  
16 resources available to them than we do which proves challenging. He touched  
17 on some other programs that are closer to us that have programs similar. One  
18 is the Colorado Springs Fire Department which is called the CARES team. It  
19 has a social worker, paramedic and police officer. They are clearing patients  
20 medically in the field to transport them to definitive care places such as their  
21 Crisis Triage center and their Acute Care facility and trying to keep these  
22 individuals out of the ER. The City of Santa Fe also has a crisis response team  
23 that employs a paramedic, social worker and a police officer and they respond  
24 to provide those services. Most of these communities are very unique and have  
25 different challenges and the best way to find out what our community needs is  
26 through a pilot program.

#### 27 **VI. Action Item**

28 In person meetings to resume in August.

29  
30 Councilor Gandara asked if there will be some sort of protocol as there are  
31 concerns on individuals outside of the City that may or may not be vaccinated  
32 coming into the office. Councilor Abeyta-Stuve stated that any protocol adopted  
33 by Council she will adopt for PRC's. As of now it looks now, if you are  
34 vaccinated, masking is optional. If not vaccinated mask is required.

35  
36 Councilor Abeyta-Stuve asked for a motion to approve the motion on resuming  
37 in person meeting of the Health PRC as of August 2021. Moved by Councilor  
38 Flores. Seconded by Councilor Gandara.

39 None opposed. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 40 41 **VII. Future Task Listing/Discussion Items**

1 Occupational Health Survey  
2 988 Program  
3 Complete Streets  
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5 **VIII. Next Meeting Dates**

6 August 4, 2021 @ 3:00 pm  
7

8 **IX. Adjournment:** 5:21 p.m.  
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12 Chair

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14 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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