

# Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Committee Members

\*Lt. Tashia Hager, PPB; Sgt. Bob McCormick, PPB; \*Sgt. Chris Burley, PPB; Ofc. Amy Bruner-Dehnert, PPB; Emily Rochon, PPB SCT; Shannon Pullen, National Alliance on Mental Illness; \*Bill Osborne, Multnomah County Behavioral Health; Cristina Nieves, Commissioner Fritz's Office; \*Felesia Otis, Volunteers of America; Floyd Pittman, Community Representative; Jan Friedman, Disability Rights Oregon; \*Joe Hagedorn, Metropolitan Public Defender's Office; Kathleen Roy, Central City Concern; \*Beth Epps, Cascadia; Maggie Bennington-Davis, Health Share of OR; Cpt. Mary Lindstrand, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office; Mike Morris, Oregon Health Authority Addictions and Mental Health Division; \*Melanie Payne, Bureau Of Emergency Communications; Hiroshi Takeo, Peer Support Specialist

[\* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

### Updates & Notes

Committee members signed up to observe parts of the ECIT training. Preference was given to new members who have not observed previous ECIT Trainings. The Chair will send out a final schedule via email.

Ride-Along: If you have not signed up for one yet, please try to do so soon. Contact Lt. Tashia Hager and arrangements will be made.

A committee member brought up an article in the Oregonian written by Maxine Bernstein titled "Portland Police Doing Better?" The member suggested there should be a scenario in the ECIT course that includes the uncertainty of deciding between de-escalation and use of force. The committee was briefed on the ECIT scenarios during the September meeting and is welcome to review the current scenarios again and suggest any improvements for future trainings. It was noted de-escalation and use of force is currently covered in PPB 2015 In-Service Training, which includes a scenario involving the decision between de-escalation and using force. Everyone in the bureau will go through this scenario when in-service is complete. Other members felt the current ECIT scenarios do include this element.

The Training Advisory Committee (TAC) is currently reviewing the PPB Citizen's Academy. The TAC is responsible for advising on overall training for PPB. This committee is also reviewing PPB training for all officers (not just ECIT) on de-escalation and use of force. It was suggested the BHUAC find a way to communicate with the TAC on issues that may overlap.

The committee's recommendations on PPB crisis intervention training topics, including: juvenile mental health and mental health policy updates, are currently being developed and will be implemented in 2016 In-Service Training.

The Oregonian article previously mentioned emphasized the importance of community perception on police reform. This led to a discussion about how do you poll community members for feedback? The COCL team is currently developing methods to poll the community on their satisfaction with police

# Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

response as part of the DOJ settlement agreement. The more we can get in front of the community and committees, the more information we share.

### September Minutes & Monthly Report

The September report was reviewed. Maggie Bennington-Davis moved to adopt the September report. Kathleen Roy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **M/S/P**

The September minutes will be posted on the BHU website once approved. Floyd Pittman made a motion to approve the September minutes and Capt. Mary Lindstrand seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **M/S/P**

### Trauma Informed Care

The CIT Coordinator, Officer Bruner-Dehnert, reviewed the draft outline for the Trauma Informed Care class with the committee. Trauma Informed Care is a new addition to the 2015 ECIT course curriculum. The course was developed by Brian Jacoby, LPC, Cascadia BHC; Kay Peterson, PMHNP, Cascadia BHC; and Dr. Liesbeth Gerritsen, PPB Training Division. The class will be taught by Brian Jacoby.

The introduction to the Trauma Informed Care class states: "A high percentage of people involved in the criminal justice system have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The effects of trauma can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increased contact with law enforcement. Trauma informed criminal justice responses can help to avoid re-traumatizing individuals and increase the ability of officers to effectively communicate with a person in crisis. ECIT officers need to be familiar with the impact of trauma on people and understand people's behaviors and emotions are not always directed at officers but a result of past experiences. A trauma informed response is not excusing or permitting/justifying unacceptable behavior but developing supportive accountability and responsibility. ECIT officers will learn to develop ways to minimize potential re-traumatization as well as self-reflect on personal reactions during crisis events. "

There will be two videos shown during the class, Nadine Burke Harris's Tedtalk on "How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime" and "Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma-Introduction" by the Office for Victims of Crime.

There was then a large discussion on how it was important to link the ACE Study (Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey/Nadine Burke Harris' talk) to police officers since it originated as a medical survey, "Why does a cop need to know this?" An important link for police officers is the hyper-vigilance concept, people with a high ACE score tend to live in a higher state of hyper-vigilance which can effect

# Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

interaction with police. The law enforcement representatives on the committee explained that hearing about the ACE Study was impactful and “incredibly powerful” to them. It helped them understand WHY someone may be acting as they are. Other questions that were asked are “How does this link to adult behavior?” “How does this impact a child and their interaction with the police?” and “Do officers understand how parents feel judged by their response while dealing with the situation?”

The committee further discussed the importance of including in the class how an officer’s background can also affect their response and the self-awareness of what they are bringing to the situation.

Understanding potential triggers of trauma/re-traumatization will be emphasized during a practical exercise in the course. The committee discussed ensuring unique individual triggers as well as universal triggers (common to several people) are covered in the class. Awareness of triggers that develop from childhood trauma could also provide a good link between the ACE Study and police interaction with people.

It was asked if they expected much feedback when officers are given the ACE survey. The intent of giving the ACE survey is for officer’s to self-reflect and understand the potential long term effects of negative childhood experiences. It is not expected for officer’s to share their personal experiences; the survey will not be collected. Some of the committee’s concerns included the potential of personal triggers in the officers and how that will be addressed. The class will end with reviewing the Resilience survey to show officers the resilience factors they have to deal with adverse experiences as well as a discussion on what officers are already doing to self-manage themselves when responding to someone in crisis or a traumatic event.

It was stated that this is the right direction to be headed in and a great class to be teaching. Many other police agencies will be doing this and this is a great start to teaching Trauma Informed Care.

Maggie Bennington-Davis made a motion that the following topics be covered in the Trauma Informed Care class of the upcoming ECIT Training:

- Highlight link between the ACE Study and adult behavior and make connection between the ACE Study and police work
- Highlight hypervigilance issues
- Discuss universal triggers
- Add a resiliency survey
- Add a personal reflection component that is strength-based: what do officers do already?

Floyd Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**M/S/P**

# **Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### **ECIT Training**

Update on training: The 2015 ECIT officers have been selected and the names are headed up to the Chief's office for final approval. A committee member asked if any of the officers that put in for the training did not meet the criteria regarding sustained use of force or mistreatment of a person with mental illness. Sergeant McCormick, who oversaw the selection process, stated none of the officer's selected had any use of force complaints in their file. He further stated there were some officers that were not recommended for training during the selection process.

### **Next Up:**

On November 5<sup>th</sup> BHU will receive a unit commendation award at the Portland Police Bureau's award ceremony.

Tashia and Shannon will review recommendations made by this committee and the PPB's responses to those recommendations. There is a lot of work ahead for 2016.

**The next BHUAC Meeting will take place on  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Chief's Office Meeting Room**