

Proposal to the PCCEP

Subcommittee on People with Mental Illness (SPMI)

December 16, 2018 - UPDATED PROPOSAL

To fellow members of Portland's Committee on Community-Engaged Policing,

I propose creation of a subcommittee of the PCCEP - the Subcommittee on People with Mental Illness. This subcommittee responds to Settlement Agreement Items 141, 142, 149, and 151. In addition, the need for a similar subcommittee are spelled out in the last sentence in the first paragraph of the introduction to the Settlement Agreement:

"Specifically, this Agreement is targeted to strengthen initiatives already begun by PPB to ensure that encounters between police and persons with perceived mental illness, or experiencing a mental health crisis, do not result in unnecessary or excessive force"

The subcommittee will have a chair and secretary appointed by the PCCEP, and be comprised of PCCEP members and others invited by the SPMI chair and secretary. Meetings of the SPMI subcommittee will be open, occur monthly, and report in writing regularly to the PCCEP. Otherwise, the SPMI subcommittee will follow the same governance as the PCCEP.

One purpose of the SPMI subcommittee is to determine the trust in the Portland Police Bureau and its officers as held by people with mental illness, addiction, alcoholism, especially those who are currently or who have recently been homeless, those who have been in jail or forcibly taken to a psychiatric hospital, or who have been recipients of police force at any time in the past or in any community. The SPMI will call this group "community members."

The SPMI subcommittee is necessary because - as we were told in the November 28th PCCEP meeting - agencies such as DHM Research - have no tools or inclination to survey persons with mental illness.

Selected members of the SPMI subcommittee should reflect the interests of the community members to be contacted - from agencies such as JOIN, Transition Projects, the Multnomah County Jail, the St Francis Dining Hall, Harry's Mother, Sisters of the Road, and others. Selected members should be able to execute surveys in their communities, and bring professional or lived experience to the SPMI subcommittee.

The SPMI subcommittee will create and execute a survey of a statistically relevant number of community members using direct contact. The SPMI subcommittee will seek outside assistance in creation of the survey.

The SPMI subcommittee will directly contact community members to gain an understanding of their experience with the Portland Police Bureau, their willingness to participate with police investigations, to contact police officers for assistance, and expectation of injury or death. The SPMI subcommittee will also inquire about trust for BOEC's 911 service, and the County's Crisis Hotline, and County jail deputies. Direct contact will take place at Portland's homeless shelters, outside psychiatric clinics, hospitals, jails, soup kitchens, service agencies, and other selected locations. The SPMI subcommittee will use unconventional but replicable methods to collect and complete surveys. Data collected will be anonymized, transcribed and expressed. No individual data will be shared and all surveys will be destroyed once transcribed.

Survey will be done annually to measure whether policy changes at the PPB increase trust by community members with the Portland Police Bureau.

The SPMI subcommittee will work with individuals and agencies to host listening sessions for community members, and to encourage and engage community members to participate in other PCCEP activities.

The SPMI subcommittee will review and advise the PCCEP on the committees, trainings, contracts, services, allies and staff of the PPB who make policy which directly affects people with mental illness, or who have routine purposeful contact with people with mental illness.

I invite discussion and input to this proposal.

Patrick Nolen