

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman, PPB BHU; Emily Rochon, PPB SCT; Beth Epps, Cascadia; Capt. Nicholas Jarmer Multnomah County Sheriff's Office; ***Cissie Bollinger, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)**; Melanie Payne, Bureau Of Emergency Communications (BOEC), Janie Gullickson, Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHA AO); Leticia Sainz, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services; LaKeesha Dumas, Office of Consumer Engagement-Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Division; ***Juliana Wallace, Unity**; ***Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier, POC-Led Cross Disability Coalition**; ***Sgt. Benson Weinberger, PPB BHU**; ***Sgt. Stephen Mirau, PPB BHU**; Mary Claire Buckley, PPB Office of Inspector General; Jill Archer, Care Oregon; Grant Hartley, Multnomah Public Defender's Office; ***Robert King, Commissioner's Staff Representative**

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Report & Minutes

May Minutes – LaKeesha Dumas motioned to approve and Emily Rochon seconded. **M/S/P.**

May Report – LaKeesha Dumas motioned to approve and Beth Epps seconded. **M/S/P.**

Updates

- **PPB new Chief Chuck Lovell** – Chuck Lovell, who was previously Acting Captain of the Community Services Division was recently promoted to Chief of Police. Jami Resch, who Chief Lovell replaced, is remaining within the Police Bureau.
- **PPB Budget Cuts** - \$27 million cut total. At present, PPB is laying off 8 non-sworn employees within the Personnel Division, due to an imminent hiring freeze. Specialty Units including, Youth Services Division (YSD) and the Gun Violence Reduction Team (GVRT) have been dissolved. The Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) had 8 full-time positions cut. The contract with Trimet will not be renewed in January. Portland Police Bureau has spent \$6.2 million on protest staffing in recent weeks.

Presentations

PPB Equity Work - Marlon Marion – Equity & Inclusion Manager

Current Projects being worked on by the Equity Team:

- Community Partners Project – new hires from advanced academy partner with community programs to engage and interact with the communities they serve
- Equity Training Videos – to create consistency & community member trainer opportunities
- Tribal relations – to ensure we are properly engaging indigenous populations and also to monitor how we track & manage sacred items
- Portland Committee for Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP) – create a youth advisory council
- Equity Retreat – meeting with PPB & city stakeholders regarding what should we prioritize for 2021

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- Converting Equity Lens Training – conduct training with Command staff on how to set equitable goals regarding who will be impacted by the goals and engage those communities for feedback
- Restoring a sense of legitimacy around equity within the Portland Police Bureau
- Securing the Program Specialist Position – an exception may be granted to be able to hire this individual. The Equity and Inclusion Manager would really like to get an Equity Analyst back on the team as the work being done will be much more challenging without that specific role.

Covid-19 Survey was distributed and results have been received. The top concerns of employees are exposure and subsequent family exposure.

Fiscal & Calendar Year Equity Inclusion Office Goals:

[Numbers reference applicable sections within the PPB Racial Equity Plan

(<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/article/642771>)]

- 1.6 – integrate Equity Lens into all decision-making processes
- 1.7 - Senior leadership will support the development of and take the lead on the implementation of the equity communication plan.
- 5.2 – Develop equity lens toolkit that will be utilized in all programs, policies, practices, missions and decisions. Ensure that understanding of inclusive processes are integrated throughout the bureau. – This goal is almost complete.
- 5.6 - This has been drafted but work still needs to be done for completion by end of year
- 6.4 - Visit initiatives biannually, once to propose ideas and get feedback and then to implement it and then finally go back to discuss further
- 6.7 – Explore past initiative-Intergroup dialogues. Identify city partners to assist with reconvening and modifying the practice to encourage the continued practice of courageous conversations.
- 6.9 – Develop the tools necessary to document, analyze, and develop community engagement to inform equity management decisions. PCCEP Engagement

We would like to continue to diversify our workforce at the Portland Police Bureau, but now the challenge remains how do we do that with a hiring freeze?

Portland Homeless/Houseless Community – Stephanie Herro – Homeless Community Liaison

Since the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, the City of Portland partnered with JOIN (a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the efforts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to transition into permanent housing) for 3 outdoor campsite shelters. It took approximately 6-8 weeks of planning to ultimately get the camps up and running with one of the main focuses on social distance practices.

The campsites have not been full at times but that is due to people moving in and out. This is city-funded. There have been discussion and support for additional campsites from community organizations for the future even after COVID-19.

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The community members living at the campsites have access to laundry, food, and clean bathroom facilities. Feedback from the community residing at the campsites are reports of feeling safer. This may be an ongoing program dependent on funding from the City.

Previously, PPB was been a part of the coordinated camp cleanup process, however this has been put on hold per CDC recommendations. The City of Portland is preparing to request campers spread out further from one another as this is a public health issue. When demonstrations started, this initiative was put on hold. Stephanie reports that she has been asking the Mayor's office on a weekly basis what the plan is for this and it is still on hold. When it does start up again it will be outreach oriented and will provide individuals education around the pandemic and precautions that could be taken to avoid becoming ill. The City continues to partner with Homeless Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP).

Stephanie reports most do not feel threatened by the ongoing protests and the folks are feeling relatively safe. However there has been an increase in criminality as a result of a lack of police presence.

One year of IPR audit of arrests for homeless individuals. July 2020 is the annual date for the presentation but COVID-19 has put a bit of a delay on this.

The Portland Street Response pilot program obtained additional funding of \$4.8 million. Lt. Casey Hettman and Stephanie Herro will be a part of upcoming planning meetings and will be in contact with Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty's office.

Discussion

- **Current National/Local events related to policing concerns**

A committee member stated that the Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) advised about the work that is being done on their side regarding policies and procedures. The individual extended to the committee to reach out directly if there is any questions in regards to policies and procedures. BOEC has support extended for mental health and new employees were recently trained regarding PPB's philosophy and mental health assistance available to them.

A committee member stated she realizes that many people personally and professionally are unaware of how Portland Police Bureau has already implemented a great deal of groundbreaking work and of all of the evidence of the hard work which is already in existence.

Service Coordination Team (SCT) graduates are also inquiring how Portland Police Bureau is doing. This population has had some of the most contact with PPB considering their history.

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Committee members were all eager to hear how everyone was doing. They expressed a great amount of care and encouragement for the Portland Police Bureau. There is a solid sense of support and a strong willingness on committee member's part to help moving forward.

PPB partners are willing and able to project an informative and data driven message when the opportunity presents itself.

**The next meeting will be July 22, 2020
2-4 PM via Zoom Meeting**