

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman, PPB BHU; Emily Rochon, PPB SCT; Beth Epps, Cascadia; Capt. Nicholas Jarmer Multnomah County Sherriff'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); ***Frederick Staten, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services;** LaKeesha Dumas, Office of Consumer Engagement-Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Division; Melissa Eckstein, Unity; Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier, POC-Led Cross Disability Coalition, DRO (Disability Rights Oregon) Representative/Disability Refugee Community of Oregon; ***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; Yesenia Carrillo, Commissioner's Staff Representative; Donald Meyers, American Medical Response (AMR); Juliana Wallace; Central City Concern (CCC)

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Report & Minutes

January Minutes – Melissa Eckstein motioned to approve and Beth Epps seconded. M/S/P

January Report – No formal recommendations made. Melanie Payne motioned to approve and Jill Archer seconded. M/S/P

Note: Currently there are 15 voting members with 8 required for a quorum. (Sworn PPB are non-voting)

- **Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) Reviews**

Members reviewed, discussed and voted on the following:

SOP 1-1, Standard Operating Procedure Manual - Janie Gullickson motioned to approve and Melissa Eckstein seconded. 1-1 is approved *with edits*.

SOP 1-2, Behavioral Health Unit function and organizational structure - Janie Gullickson motioned to approve and Myrla Perez seconded. 1-2 is approved *with edits*.

SOP 1-3, Crisis Intervention Training Coordinator - Beth Epps motioned and Myrla Perez seconded. 1-3 is approved *with edits*.

SOP 1-4, Behavioral Health Unit Data Analyst - Jill Archer motioned and Emily Rochon seconded. 1-4 is approved *with edits*.

There is a plan for a guiding doctrine and values for the PPB/BHU which will be put forward to the group as a separate stand-alone SOP detailing this. It will be on the agenda in a future meeting.

BHUAC Meeting Minutes 02/24/2021

Updates

- **BHU - Lt. Casey Hettman** – Reiterated that the BHU was reduced to three Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRT) on 2/4/21. The reduction from five teams was a result of staffing constraints and budget reductions within the Portland Police Bureau. This means there will be one BHRT team per precinct (North, Central & East). In addition to this the BHU is also down one additional officer due to an injury. They will be off work for approximately three to four months. This officer will be temporarily filled in the interim per the Chief's authority. Effective 03/29/2021 BHU staff will be transitioning to being physically back in the BHU offices full time. BHU staff had been working in a hybrid model working remotely part time and in the office part time. Returning staff to the office will provide an opportunity to collaborate more effectively.

Portland Street Response (PRST) – The BHU is looking for opportunities to collaborate with the Portland Street Response Team and they are in operation and going to calls as of last week.

A member inquired how they are dispatched.

Answer – via 911 calls to the Lents neighborhood (which is the pilot program area). Portland Street Response is geographically limited to that neighborhood. It is unknown when an expansion will occur. BOEC will eventually need a dedicated dispatcher for the program. The goal is to have the program operate citywide by this time next year.

Portland Street Response has a strong social media presence. The makeup of the team is a mental health professional riding along with an EMT/Fire first responder. PSR Community Health Workers follow up with individuals after the initial PSR response. They will help manage the case after initial contact. PSR will be adding additional community health workers or peers to the team in approximately six months.

A member inquired what the outcomes have been so far. To date there have been seven calls that they have responded to. The PSR is being well received by individuals in the community and they are very eager to assist the community.

The BHUAC requested a point person to contact for future inquiries regarding PSR and it was agreed that this information would be sent out to the group post meeting.

Service Coordination Team (SCT) – Emily Rochon – In reference to moving the contract to the JOINT Office, Emily met with Commissioner Ryan, Mark Jolin and A/C Davis. There is strong support to keep the SCT contract in the general fund. Ultimately, this requested change needs to go back to the City Council for a final decision. The difference between the SCT program and other social services is that PPB formed, designed and implemented this program from the inside and reached out to social services for partnerships. Emily will continue to keep the BHUAC updated and informed on this issue.

- **Coalition of PPB Advisory Groups (CAG) – Janie Gullickson** – The purpose of CAG is to build relationships, hear about the work being done, and effectively communicate with the Police Chief and Mayor's offices.

February 08, 2021 - Janie was unable to attend the meeting.

Janie advised she will share the link and calendar for the upcoming CAG meetings with the BHUAC.

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Discussion

The BHUAC discussed that the proposed meetings referenced within the Community Engagement Plan should be scheduled on a quarterly basis. There was discussion regarding what the format would be. Even though the BHUAC meeting minutes are publically available the meeting itself is not open to the public so there is a strong interest to find out more about the work being done in this Committee. One aim of the Community Engagement Plan is for the Committee to receive information regarding community concerns and what they would like addressed. The goal is to have an open dialogue with the community. Given the ongoing pandemic it was suggested that the meeting should initially be done virtually.

It was decided by the BHUAC that the first meeting should take place in March. The framework for this first meeting should entail education on what the BHUAC is, the work BHUAC does, and how partners serve and guide the work that the BHU does.

Suggestions regarding meeting organization:

- Have community member write and send in questions ahead of time and have a portion of time at the end of the meeting to address the questions
- Communicate clearly what the BHU is when marketing the meeting to the community so that people have an idea of what the work consists of and it could be used as a referral source in the meeting
- If it is out of scope have a quick redirection/resource for that person to utilize
- Who will attend? Committee members who pledged to attend so far are Casey, Janie, Emily and Melissa. A facilitator will be utilized to set the stage for a meaningful meeting amongst the parties.

Discussion regarding how outreach will be handled occurred and it was agreed that PPB would post about it on social media and links to existing networks via committee members which have already been cultivated within everyone's professional work would be utilized.

The meeting should be approximately 90 minutes long and start at 6:00pm. But the timing for the meeting can always be modified for future meetings if needed.

American Sign Language, closed captioning option and recording for future access and accessibility for all was discussed to foster inclusivity. A committee member volunteered to look into this resource further and share with the group for scheduling and pricing.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 will be the first Community Engagement Plan Meeting, convening at 6:00pm.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 will be the second Community Engagement Plan Meeting.

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**The next BHUAC meeting will be March 24, 2021
2-4 PM via Zoom Meeting**