

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 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

Guests: Mary Claire Buckley, PPB; Ellen Osoinach Portland City Attorney's Office; Adrian Brown, US District Attorney's Office

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Updates & Notes

Next month is the CIT conference in Vancouver Washington. BHU will be attending. If you would like any information on this conference please contact Lt. Tashia Hager.

Lt. Hager reminded the committee about the importance of making formal recommendations as a reflection of this committee's work. Our presentations and discussions are very important as we gather the information necessary to give sound advice and offer well-informed suggestions. This information is captured in our minutes. However, to clearly communicate what the committee has agreed upon, formal recommendations need to be made. This will provide the DOJ documentation to show the committee is meeting its obligations under the DOJ agreement. It is also important that we have quorum each month in order to vote and fulfill our mission.

Many of the newer committee members may not have had the chance to do a Ride Along with an ECIT police officer. Please take time to participate in one. We also suggest that longer-term committee members sign up for a second Ride Along to provide additional perspective to the committee. If you are interested in a Ride Along, please email Lt. Hager.

July Minutes & Monthly Report

There were no changes to the July meeting notes or report.

Joe Hagedorn made a motion to approve the July meeting notes. Maggie Bennington-Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

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Cristina Nieves made a motion to approve the July report. Kathleen Roy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Open Meeting Discussion

Should this meeting be open to the public or continue to remain closed? The committee chair provided background to newer members: This question was raised more than a year ago. At that time, the City Attorney determined we are not subject to the Open Meetings Law. The committee discussed the topic in depth and voted to remain closed. A committee member raised the issue again a few months ago with a formal letter to the committee on behalf of the committee member's organization. In response, the City Attorney reviewed the issue again, met with representatives from the advocacy organization and determined we are still not subject to the law.

At the August meeting, our intention was to discuss the topic thoroughly, especially given how many new members we have. There was a detailed discussion about transparency and if we do or do not meet all the critical aspects of the definition of the law. The City Attorney, who was present, stated that this meeting is not subject to Oregon's open meeting laws because this committee is not a governing body. The City Attorney reminded the group that although we are not required to be open to the public, this does not prohibit the committee from deciding to be open to the public.

Advocates for making the meeting open suggested that we need to do more to be transparent and inform the public about what goes on within the group. We need to get the community involved in a more effective manner. Others suggested that by having the meeting with just the representatives of the various groups creates an environment where each member feels safe to speak freely about topics and share personal issues that may apply. There was also a feeling that by remaining closed the members could focus more clearly on completing the tasks specifically given to them from the DOJ agreement, especially given how much work needs to be accomplished in the short period of time this committee meets each month.

There was general agreement from the group that this meeting remains closed to the public, aside from the member who advocated for open meetings. However, everyone agreed there should be more done to communicate what the group is accomplishing with the public. There was a robust discussion on how to include the public while keeping the meeting closed. It was suggested that the minutes be posted online in an easy location for the public to access. There was also discussion of posting the agenda in advance of the upcoming meeting. There is an email to the BHUAC, however, the Chair noted that no emails have ever been sent from the public to it.

It was also suggested to find a way to work with the COAB. The COAB is open to the public and that is a regular forum for the public to participate in the process so there is a way for the public to be heard from directly. There does need to be a bridge between the COAB & BHUAC. A current BHUAC member

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will be attending both and has agreed to represent the BHUAC at the COAB mental health subcommittee if the BHUAC members agree.

It was then suggested that the committee members who are here representing their communities are a bridge and would share the meeting notes and minutes with their respective groups. The main reason the minutes haven't been posted up until now is that when this committee formed the DOJ agreement had not been signed and the subject has not be broached again since. It was also suggested that committee members should spend time with people from their organizations so they are better able to represent community thoughts. One of the committee members outlined his idea of how he was going to do this to be able to represent more than just his experiences and ideas.

It was suggested that the minutes get posted on the BHU website. Also the BHUAC reports that are done should be posted. The Agenda will be posted before the next meeting and the approved minutes will be posted after they have been approved by the BHUAC.

Beth Epps made a motion to post the Agenda on the BHU website prior to the upcoming Meeting. Kathleen Roy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Jan Friedman moved to post committee-approved Minutes on the BHU website starting with the August minutes. Floyd Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Mary Lindstrom moved to post all previous and future reports to the BHU website. Bill Osborne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Maggie Bennington-Davis made the motion that Beth Epps represent the BHUAC at the mental health subcommittee of the COAB meetings. Melanie Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

SCT Program criteria for the six mental health beds:

Emily Rochon met with Central City Concern (CCC) and reviewed the proposed criteria for the six new mental health beds as part of the expansion of the SCT program. Eligibility would include:

- a) Adult
- b) Homeless/housing instability
- c) Frequent police contact
- d) Primary residence in the City of Portland

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- e) Behavioral Health symptoms which are the contributing factor to frequent police contact, but does not meet hold criteria
- f) Assigned to Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) or current SCT participant
- g) Substantial compliance with building rules and treatment readiness activities
- h) Eligible for CCC housing
- i) No history of arson convictions

** IN addition, Emily noted they are developing language with CCC in order to not exclude non-predatory sex offenses. CCC currently utilizes the County determination of predatory/non-predatory sex offenses to determine housing eligibility.

It was clarified that these beds are not treatment beds. These beds are for BHRT clients with significant mental health issues that need a place to stay until the BHRT teams connect them with the services they need, such as housing, treatment and additional supports. It was suggested the name be changed to BHRT beds to specify that the 6 beds are for BHU use.

Melanie Payne moved that we approve these criteria as presented with a clarification on the sex offender's language to be provided at a later date. Bill Osborne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Qualification for BHRT/ECIT Officers

BHU is going to be posting for ECIT officer selection next week. Please review the current qualifications which are:

- Desire to provide service to people in behavioral health crisis
- Commitment to perform self-initiated activities
- Ability to think systemically and engage in creative problem solving
- Ability to clearly articulate use of force decision-making
- Interest in representing the Bureau to community stakeholders
- Must not have an Internal Affairs disciplinary history that would be detrimental to the unit
- Must not have a sustained use of force or mistreatment complaint involving a person with mental illness within the last 3 years

There was a consensus that the committee had looked at the qualifications for ECIT officer previously. The committee discussed the words "sustained use of force". The 3 year requirement is in the wording because of the DOJ agreement. Every situation is different and there are mitigating factors. These requirements are the MINIMUM requirements that must be met for an officer to apply for an ECIT slot. There are many other factors that go into selecting an officer for this training which include a review of their internal affairs file, a review of the employee information system, and recommendations from

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their command staff. There was then a lengthy discussion on how to make the decision with the community involved or in mind. Suggestion was made to add the following to the qualifications:

- * Demonstrate self-emotional awareness skills
- * Demonstrate de-escalation skills

The committee also suggested that the posting made it clear these were minimum qualifications and include a statement: "There will be an extensive work history review with input from command staff (which will include an Internal Affairs & EIS Review)."

Maggie Bennington-Davis moved that the committee approves these qualifications for the ECIT job posting as presented with the following changes:

- a) add the word "Minimum" in front of Qualification to Apply
- b) include "Demonstrate emotional self-management skills" as a prerequisite
- c) include "Demonstrate de-escalation skills" as a prerequisite
- d) include the statement "There will be an extensive work history review with input from command staff (which will include an Internal Affairs & EIS Review)."

Captain Mary Lindstrand seconded the motion. One member opposed. The motion passed.

M/S/P

The BHRT qualifications were not discussed at this meeting.

Next Up:

The next BHUAC Meeting will take place on September 23rd at 2:00 pm at the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, 15th Floor, Strategic Services Division Conference Room