

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2016

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; *Janie Marsh, Mental Health America of Oregon

Guest:

Adrian Brown, United States Attorney's Office, Frank Silva PPB BHU, Bryan Parman Training Division, Emma Covelli Training Division

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

April Report & April Minutes

The April minutes were reviewed. Joe Hagedorn moved that the minutes be accepted and Floyd Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

The April report was reviewed. Felesia Otis moved to accept the April report with the following changes to the first sentence under the header **April 2016 Committee Votes and Recommendations**, "The BHUAC reviewed and approved Standard Operating Procedure #3-2 with the following recommendations:" Melanie Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Updates

Emily Rochon invited the committee to the Service Coordination Team Graduation on May 26, 2016 at 10 AM at City Hall. Graduation is an opportunity to honor the SCT graduates for their hard work and commitment to recovery. It has always been a very moving ceremony.

Shannon will forward an email to the group with the comments from the CIT International Conference keynote speaker Vanita Gupta, US Attorney General's Office Head of the Civil Rights Division. Her speech specifically highlighted the work of the BHUAC.

Sgt. Bob McCormick updated the committee on the recent ECIT in-service. Two classes completed the in-service and the remainder two classes are scheduled for July. The Training Division will be collecting feedback from student evaluations.

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Continued Discussion from April 20, 2016 meeting of Training Division's Review of ECIT Training

The Chair opened the discussion, stating this was the time for the committee to make formal recommendations regarding the ECIT Training. The BHUAC agreed to discuss the following areas:

- Content
- Trainers/Facilitators
- Observers
- Feedback

Content

A committee member asked how much the ECIT training educates around specific disabilities and reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This topic is covered in the CIT core curriculum, which every Officer receives. The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) currently has a full-time CIT Instructor, and this topic is covered at the State Academy. The ECIT content focuses on behaviors and communication tactics, not specific diagnosis since that is covered in basic CIT. A committee member requested to review the content of the CIT curriculum, specifically the portion around disabilities and ADA. This curriculum is developed and approved at DPSST and would require their permission to share it with the committee. The Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator will request it and send to the board member. There were no formal recommendations from the committee regarding any changes of the ECIT curriculum.

Trainers/Facilitators

The PPB Training Division reviewed feedback from the student evaluations with the committee. The two classes which scored lower than the rest of the classes or from previous years were the Family Panel and the Trauma Informed Care class. The committee discussed the challenges and opportunities when facilitating such an emotionally charged panel and how best to ensure both speakers and audience are prepared to participate and that everyone feels safe. The committee discussed how peer panelists and family member panelists experience the training differently. Peers report feeling empowered as they share about their experiences and their recovery. Family members may still be in the middle of difficult circumstances, facing current or potential crisis. Family members report presenting on the panel can be difficult as it brings up lots of emotions around their experiences with the mental health system, racial inequities or other topics. The committee discussed making sure the facilitator is an active guide throughout the discussion and providing better preparation to all participants in advance. The Chair and another committee member who is also a family member will continue to work with BHU and the Training Division to strengthen and improve the Family Panel.

The CIT Coordinator informed the committee that since this ECIT class took place in November, there has been a change in the Trauma Informed Care instructor. CIT Coordinator is continuing to work with the instructor to ensure the concepts and skills learned are applicable to police issues and work. Training Division and CIT Coordinator stated there were learning experiences and are dedicated to

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continually assessing and improving the class. This will continue to be a work in progress as feedback is collected. Facilitators may need extra guidance on tailoring the topic to police crisis response.

The committee discussed the possible benefit of scheduling the Trauma Informed Care class right before the Family Panel, as to help the class immediately apply what they have learned. Family members often have experienced trauma and the content can be woven into the learning objectives of the panel discussion. This, of course, may depend on the availability of facilitators and panel members.

Observers

Consistently, committee members who experienced being an observer for ECIT classes found it interesting and informative and highly encouraged all members to observe at least one class. Some members expressed they have observed enough, others would like to observe more. This committee has a significant reason to observe training, as part of the BHUAC, in order to make recommendations on the curriculum.

The Training Division discussed how observers can be a hindrance to the students and the facilitator. At one point, there were 4 observers at one time, which impacted the learning experience of the students. Research shows that any amount of observers or even a class being video-taped will affect learning. The best learning environment would be to not have observers, but it is understood there are professional reasons why this may occur. There is a difference between obligation and curiosity to observe.

Committee members agreed they did not want to hinder learning. Committee members discussed specifically about their role with the BHUAC and its connection to observing classes. Committee suggested the possibility of only new members of the BHUAC observe, at least one class, in order to fully understand what they are advising on. Members stated it would be beneficial to observe training if there is a major change to the curriculum. An alternative suggestion from the group was the possibility of the trainer to facilitate a version of the class directly to the committee instead of observing during the class itself. The committee discussed inviting an ECIT Officer to the committee meeting to give feedback on what they learned and how they are able to apply specific techniques in the field. This would give the members an opportunity to ask specific questions, instead of being a silent observer in the classroom. It was proposed that unless a member is obligated, the number of observers should be restricted to ensure a cohesive learning environment.

There are other advisory committees, like COAB, whose members have observed Portland Police trainings and have appeared to have come back to the COAB meeting with a different perspective. Humanizing officers and improving relationships with the community is not only a goal, but beneficial for everyone. Members of the COAB participated in the PPB Citizens Academy and one COAB member observed the entire 2015 ECIT course. CIT Coordinator stated the COAB members are able to make requests for information just like the BHUAC. BHU members have presented on the BHU organization to the COAB and presented on PPB crisis response training to the COAB mental health sub-committee. There was also a discussion about how to educate the community about the type of training police are receiving.

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At the end of the discussion, the BHUAC voted and approved the ECIT training as it stands with the following recommendations:

- 1) The content of the Trauma Informed Care should be tied into the learning objectives of the Family Panel and be scheduled (when possible) prior to the Family Panel.
- 2) No observers should be allowed to observe the ECIT Training unless there is a significant change made to classes or content or a new BHUAC member comes on board.
- 3) Invite ECIT officers to the committee to share feedback and experience on the ground using skills learned during training
- 4) New classes or material that may be added to future ECIT Trainings could be “taught” or presented to the committee as was previously done with the Trauma Informed Care class.

Felesia Otis made the motion to approve the ECIT Training as it stands with the recommendations stated above. Floyd Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

The committee recommended the BHU develop a special opportunity at the Training Facility for members of the community to observe the content and instructors of the ECIT Training, as if they were officers, in order to build trust with the community and demystify what happens in training.

Felesia Otis moved to recommend this proposal and Cristina Nieves seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

SOP #1-4 Behavioral Health Unit Crime Analyst

BHUAC reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #1-4 for the BHU Crime Analyst position.

The committee recommended adding “and protected” to the Policy to read: The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) has the responsibility to ensure statistical data is reliable, valid and protected.”

Mike Morris moved to approve SOP #1-4 with the recommended changes outlined above. Bill Osborne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M/S/P

Due to time, the scheduled data presentation by Frank Silva, BHU Data Analysis, needed to be rescheduled.

Preview for upcoming meetings

**June 22th, 2016 at 2:00 PM at the Portland Police Bureau’s Central Precinct, 11th Floor,
Behavioral Health Unit Meeting Room**