

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2018

Committee Members

Lt. Chris Wheelwright BHU; PPB, **Sgt. Todd Tackett** PPB; **Sgt. Casey Hettman** PPB; ***Ofc. Jason Jones**, PPB CIT; **Emily Rochon**, PPB SCT; **Shannon Pullen**, National Alliance on Mental Illness; **Cristina Nieves**, Commissioner Fritz's Office; **Jan Friedman**, Disability Rights Oregon; **Kathleen Roy**, Central City Concern; ***Beth Epps**, Cascadia; **Katie Burgard** Multnomah County Sherriff's Office; **Mike Morris**, Oregon Health Authority Addictions & Mental Health Division; **Melanie Payne**, Bureau Of Emergency Communications, **Janie Gullickson**, Mental Health Association of Oregon (MHAO); **Leticia Sainz**, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services; ***Wyndham McNair**, Case Manager CCC

Guest: BOEC Nikki Reed and Mary Claire Buckley

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Notes & Updates

We will be adding new members from Unity, AMR, Office of Consumer Engagement and HealthShare to the committee. In addition, a few members will be stepping down after their terms end next month: including Shannon Pullen, Jan Friedman and Kathleen Roy.

February Minutes & Report

Leticia Sainz moved to accept the minutes and Melanie Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed.
M/S/P

Melanie Payne moved to accept the February report, Kathleen Roy seconded the motion. The motion passed. **M/S/P**

BOEC Policy Review

COCL and BOEC have been in discussion re: dispatching ECIT officers more frequently and how to amend BOEC's current Mental Health and ECIT Dispatch Protocol to allow for that. BOEC presented the following language to be added to the dispatch protocols: "The subject's behavior is escalating the risk of harm to self or others" (see attached policy – highlighted line). These protocols are important as they allow BOEC and PPB to prioritize when to dispatch ECIT officers. These changes allow dispatchers to send ECIT officers to more types of mental health calls. BOEC hopes to implement this shortly and will audit it after 6 months and report back to BHUAC. They are also looking at new ways of collecting the dispatch data to have a better understanding of the average numbers of mental health calls ECIT officers go to on a monthly basis. The committee requested a more in depth presentation from the data analyst at a future meeting.

The committee discussed the impact these changes may have on the workload and morale of ECIT officers. Portland Police Bureau is making changes in reporting, but officers are still overwhelmed. ECIT officer workload will be discussed at the upcoming supervisor training in the spring.

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Leticia Sainz moved to accept the new language as it is written in the Mental Health and ECIT Dispatch Protocol. Beth Epps seconded the motion. The motion passed. **M/S/P**

In addition to the quantitative data reviewed by the COCL, Committee members suggested qualitative data is an important component to understanding the quality of interactions between ECIT officers and people in mental health crisis. The COCL has interviewed call takers and ECIT officers. The Portland Police Bureau has done a lot of work to comply with the DOJ agreement by capturing and analyzing data. The committee discussed that a missing piece of information comes from the community itself and that it would be beneficial if the COCL interviewed community members who have had direct interactions with ECIT officers.

Janie Gullickson moved to recommend the COCL, working with behavioral health and advocacy organizations, interview community members who have had direct interactions with ECIT officers since the implementation of the Mental Health and ECIT dispatch protocol, prior to the COCL next report. Melanie Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed. **M/S/P**

Follow up to ECIT panel

The committee discussed the importance of how to support officers who volunteer and are selected to be ECIT officers. The position cannot be incentivized, per the DOJ agreement. The current situation “rewards” them with more report writing and extra calls, juggling their district workload and extra emotional stress. What are other ways to decrease stress and encourage officers to continue in this demanding additional role they take on? Sign-ups for the next ECIT training class will be a good indicator of how the program is doing.

The Chief’s Office recently went in front of City Council and requested additional officers. The hope is to get enough new positions to staff districts appropriately and stop using specialty units as patrol officers. If there are not enough officers for patrol, PPB cannot do community engagement. If there are enough officers then district work will get done.

Leticia Sainz moved to recommend the Portland Police Bureau develops a strategic plan in conjunction with feedback from ECIT officers and the community that:

- 1) improves ECIT officer recruitment and retention
- 2) increases ECIT officer availability and
- 3) promotes community engagement

For example, one option to explore would be having ECIT officers available precinct wide and not assigned to a particular district. Mike Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed. **M/S/P**

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Jim Stegemeyer Presentation

Officer Stegemeyer shared a new presentation he has put together with the help of Leticia Sainz (MHASD) and Cindy Hackett (BHU/BHRT clinician). The Behavioral Health Unit receives many calls from the community and businesses on how to engage the houseless/transient population or people with mental health issues and what their employees/members should do to make these interactions go more smoothly and safely.

He covered the history of mental health institutions and treatment in America, having a plan, what you are legally able to do, what probable cause is, know your policy, know your personal comfort level, risks to consider, legal liability, when to call the police, what happens when you do call the police, what it means to press charges and getting a police report.

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Neighborhood Response Teams and CIT were all doing a version of this presentation. The Behavioral Health Unit is consolidating the information and working in partnership with the Portland Business Alliance (PBA) and Multnomah County to offer classes on a quarterly basis at a location provided by the PBA.

The next BHUAC meeting will be on April 25, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, 11th floor BHU Meeting Room.