

# Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2018

### Committee Members

**Lt. Chris Wheelwright** BHU; PPB, **\*Sgt. Todd Tackett** PPB; **Sgt. Casey Hettman** PPB; **Ofc. Jim Stegemeyer** PPB CIT; **Emily Rochon**, PPB SCT; **\*Cristina Nieves**, Commissioner Fritz's Office, **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; **LaKeesha Dumas**, Office of Consumer Engagement-Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Division (MHASD); **\*Cheryl Cohen**, Health Share of Oregon; **Tim Case**, AMR; **\*Juliana Wallace**, Unity, **Kathleen Roy**, Central City Concern, **Myrla Perez-Rivier**, POC-Led Cross Disability Coalition.

[\* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

**Guest: Mary Claire Buckley** – PPB DOJ Compliance Team

### May & June Minutes & Report

Katie Burgard moved to accept the May report, Kathleen Roy seconded, Melanie Payne abstained.

**M/S/P**

June minutes and Report Melanie Payne moved to accept the minutes and report Katie Burgard seconded the motion **M/S/P**

### BHU success stories

Patrol officers responded to a call of a male wanting to light himself on fire. After 25 minutes of talking to the person he agreed to go to Unity. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of July a man wanted to jump off the Hawthorne Bridge. Central officers talked to the man for over an hour and offered him water. He was successfully talked off the railing and taken to Unity. On July 20<sup>th</sup> at 11pm Central officers responded to the Vista Bridge and found someone who was on the railing. When officers arrived they established good report with the subject and after about 30 minutes he agreed to get help and was taken to a local hospital on a Police Officer Hold.

### BOEC

Melanie Payne brought two BOEC audio calls and dispatch protocol regarding the dispatch (or not) of ECIT officers. Melanie requested the group's input and feedback regarding the calls and whether or not the group thought there was a mental health component to the call or not. She gave a quick review of how 911 dispatch works from the time a call comes in, when it gets dispatched and how it's flagged as having a mental health component.

The two calls played.

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Call #1 Discussion – Based on the caller’s description would you send an ECIT officer? One committee members said: “Intuitively yes, but I’m a mental health professional. I deal with this daily.”

Another committee member suggested to error on the side of caution, “when in doubt send them out.”

Further discussion followed and the group was asked to consider that 911 receives an average of 3200 calls a day and only has a limited amount of resources to dispatch at any given time. Another committee member asked the call taker have the ability to see the resources? No, it’s the dispatcher’s job to allocate resources according to what the call takers have placed in the call. The criteria for dispatching an ECIT officer include, upon request of the responding officer, and upon the request of a caller. There is ability to research the previous call if needed. Usually the officer will look at the notes. There are around 300 ECIT calls a month and about 115 operational ECIT officers. This call was not dispatched as an ECIT call.

Melanie did a quick run through of how 911 works from call takers to dispatchers and how the call takers give a summary to the dispatcher. The dispatcher has the ability to get clarifying information to the call taker, many times its officers asking the clarifying questions.

Call #2 Discussion – Is an officer always dispatched for this type of call? Yes, always. Is an ECIT officer going? That’s the question. The call taker was able to attach a previous call to the current call and that information was sent to the responding officers. The officer responded in 3 minutes and the person was moved along in 5 minutes.

Group discussed the impact of stigma.

### **DOJ Update**

Jarred Hager/BHUAC Discussion- During the DOJ Settlement Agreement Hearing, Judge Simon and the court asked specific questions regarding patient arrests at the Unity Center. *A commenters during the public testimony portion asked about the number of people that go from the Unity Center to jail, and that would be, then, a transportation via the Portland Police Bureau. Are those numbers accessible? Are they available? Where do people find out? Can people find out about that? Is there any information you can share at this time?* (from page 155 of hearing transcripts).

Is there an issue with people going to Unity and then ending up arrested? In the 15 month period, between the opening of Unity to the end of May of this year, there were 30 arrests out of 10,000 individuals treated at Unity. Less than half a percent, about 2 a month. There was a suggestion that this might be a number that the BHUAC would want to keep track of.

Do you have any number on the people who have been pushed away because of lack of funding? No, there is no qualitative assessment of the individuals that seek help at Unity. There are two different streams of service day use and weekly stays. There will be a requirement from the State coming through that will require a “warm handoff” from the Emergency room to other services. There must be a follow

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up appointment in 7 days. Mike Morris can bring the information related to this change in the rules to the next meeting.

We should keep this in mind and after the Unity presentation, decide what metrics to ask for from Unity. It will be very interesting to see how they are counting the people who are coming in and how they are going to implement the new rules. It will help to ask Julianna some of these questions now so she can have some of the data next month. What is within the scope of the committee?

Questions from the group:

Are there capacity issues at Unity? Is the issue more of a system issue? What are the current capacity issues? What happens at the door [to Unity]? Who gets counted [re: data collection]? Why does someone get moved on-what is the criteria?

Can urgent walk in also come give a presentation? Police can drop off at urgent walk in clinic, but they don't use it often because you have to agree to go.

### Cultural Sensitivity Training

At the June BHUAC meeting, Officer Stegemeyer gave a presentation on the upcoming ECIT training. There was a question on if there was a cultural consideration element? Last year this question came up and Capt. Tashia Hager reached out to the Latino Network to help create a scenario. The scenario is that the call comes out on a son of a family whose father doesn't speak English and the teenage daughter is the interpreter. They are asked to think of what stress is placed on the father for not being able to communicate with the officer, Immigration concerns, the stress on the daughter for having to interpret and the stress of the son in crisis. What is the cultural impact? The cultural impact of one member of the family may not be the same for the person the Police are there to help. There is also the PEER panel. At the last in-service training, the implicit bias class included a listening session where community members shared their interactions with police, and how those interactions impacted them. Training is ongoing. Recently a video was produced that provides an overview of a new program that helps an officer and a deaf or hard of hearing person communicate during a traffic stop. Central Precinct now has placards available for drivers. Someone using a placard can point to one of the communication methods on the placard. Communication methods on the placard include interpreter, listening device, writing, captioning, and lip-reading.

Please share this information to your organizations that this is available. This comes from the DPSST. Can the video be disseminated to the public? Twitter? This is a great program.

**The next BHUAC meeting will be on August 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, 11<sup>th</sup> floor BHU Meeting Room.**