

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 27th, 2019

Committee Members

A/Lt. Casey Hettman PPB BHU; **Sgt. Sarah Taylor** PPB BHU***Ofc. Jim Stegemeyer** PPB CIT; **Emily Rochon**, PPB SCT; ***Cristina Nieves**, Commissioner Fritz's Office, ***Beth Epps**, Cascadia; **Capt. Jarmer** Multnomah County Sherriff's Office; **Cissie Bollinger**, Oregon Health Authority; **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; ***Cheryl Cohen**, Health Share of Oregon; **Tim Case**, AMR; ***Juliana Wallace**, Unity; ***Kathleen Roy**, Central City Concern; **Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier**, Disability Rights Oregon

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Guests:

- Jason Renaud, Mental Health Alliance
- City Attorney Tracy Reeve

Jason Renaud stated he was representing the Mental Health Alliance, which have had a long interest in this meeting. Mr. Renaud described how the Mental Health Alliance provides technical assistance in legal and medical information for the Portland Committee for Community Engaged Policing (PCCPEP). Four years ago a representative from Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) requested the BHUAC to consider being opened to the public. The Mental Health Alliance are asking again that this meeting become open to the public in the interest of transparency. The Mental Health Alliance states they do not have a specific agenda, just to have it open to the public, so they are informed on what happens in this meeting. Mr. Renaud thanked the committee members for the work they do. Mr. Renaud stated It would be beneficial to those on the street to open lines of communication that weren't there before.

Question: Is there a vision of what the Mental Health Alliance has for what "open," means? Does this include anyone, including media?

Mr. Renaud: If this were to become a public meeting, there can be rules put into place. There is no set rules over what that would look like. The main concern when this was raised years ago, was that other local public meetings being held were contentious. Mr. Renaud stated this concern has been abated.

A committee member talked about their past experiences in engaging in open, public meetings. The member also discussed equity issues and ways to build trust between the police, public and the elected officials. The member suggested listening tours as a possibility to open lines of communication. The member also discussed the latest best practices on how to engage in transparency. The position of Disability Rights Oregon is that this committee adhere to the open committee rules. The committee member discussed concerns around safety and covered the possibility of creating a public steering committee.

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Question: What do you want to get from the meeting for it to be open?

Mr. Renaud: We don't have an agenda except to make it open. This is the only DOJ required meeting that is closed to the public. It's making advisory decisions for those in the mental health community and is sowing distrust.

A committee member gave examples of a number of committees on the state level that aren't open to the public.

A committee member reminded the group the Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) is also part of the DOJ agreement. Some of the recommendations this committee provides go directly to BOEC and their board. There are discussions specific to BOEC policies and procedures, which should also be considered.

Mr. Renaud: There would be no objections to executive sessions behind doors. There are workarounds for those issues. There should be a plan in place if someone were to attend the meeting with the intent to disrupt. There are identified "bad actors" who do not represent the community. This can lead to disruption and will further break the trust. They have learned that having video, microphones and elected officials behind a desk all exacerbate issues seen in the COAB. There are many other meetings that are open and they aren't being disrupted.

City Attorney Tracy Reeve was invited to speak to the matter of the request of open meetings. She reported to the group that the meetings are not subject to Oregon Public Meeting law and provided examples.

Question: Do we see this as a role of the BHUAC members, who change frequently, to make this decision?

City Attorney: The City has decided to give more discretion to the meeting members, although the BHUAC does not legally have to be an open meeting. If the committee members were not comfortable making that decision, they could consult further with the City Attorney's office. There is nothing precluding the members from deciding to make some or all of the meetings open, have two a year, and/or hold a listening session on a regular basis.

The committee talked about how the focus of this body has historically focused on the DOJ requirements and advising on the policy and procedures of the PPB and BOEC. The police bureau seeks public input through a different process in the broader PPB policies.

Question: Why is this meeting not subjected to the Oregon Public Meeting law?

City Attorney: The City Attorney explained why this meeting isn't subjected to the Public Meeting law. The BHUAC makes recommendations directly to the Lieutenant of the PPB/BHU, not to a governing body. As such, the committee is not bound by Oregon Public Meeting law.

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A committee member reflected on their experience of the COAB and expressed concern of similar outcomes with this meeting. They also recounted how a recent event showed how building community trust is a critical component. There are processes and standards that can be implemented to share the work of the BHUAC.

Question: Who organizes the community engagement for BHU? Could the BHUAC also help guide those engagements?

Answer: Community engagement is a bureau-wide initiative and BHU also has their own events (i.e. coffee with cop, NAMI walks, networking). It's always an opportunity to measure the engagement and its outcome.

The committee had a robust discussion around the potential impacts of having an open meeting. Media and/or outside community members may change the participation in the advisory council. This meeting differs from other public advisory boards, as the BHUAC addresses many sensitive issues and requirements of the DOJ. The current structure of the meeting has led to a great deal of positive and productive work. The police bureau as a whole, as well as BHU, value transparency. The committee discussed the possibilities of attending and/or presenting at relevant public groups, such as PCCEP. Other ideas, included hosting listening sessions, which could give the public a way to inform future committee agendas.

A committee member discussed potential feasibility of a motion to create a steering/subcommittee to create a public/community engagement model for the BHUAC. Committee members elected to table the open meeting discussion to afford others an opportunity to weigh in and to consult with their respective agencies.

Report & Minutes

December minutes: Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier motions to approve Leticia Sainz seconds **M/S/P** Melanie Payne, Tim Case, Cissie Bollinger & Capt. Jarmer abstain

December Report: Leticia Sainz motions and Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier seconds **M/S/P** Melanie Payne, Tim Case & Capt. Jarmer and Cissie Bollinger abstain

January Minutes: Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier motions and Melanie Payne seconds **M/S/P** Leticia Sainz, Tim Case and Cissie Bollinger abstain

January Report: Melanie Payne motions and Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier seconds **M/S/P** Leticia Sainz, Tim Case and Cissie Bollinger & Capt. Jarmer abstain

BHU SOP

#3.1 Service Coordination Team

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Emily Rochon, Program Manager for the Service Coordination Team (SCT), highlighted the proposed changes to the SOP, which included a description of the Supportive Transitions and Stabilization (STS) portion of the SCT program. SCT is contracted with Central City Concern for 66 beds to provide services for individuals connected to SCT and BHU.

Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier motioned to approve SOP #3.1 with the proposed changes, Leticia Sainz seconded. **M/S/P**

What's Next?

Near the conclusion of the meeting, committee members requested additional details on the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) model employed in Eugene. Emily Rochon and Casey Hettman recently had the opportunity to tour the program and will be able to share details of the program when time allows in future meetings.

The next meeting will be on April 24th 2019 2pm - 4pm