

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 24th, 2019

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman 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:

- Tamara Mayer – Body-worn camera initiative

Report & Minutes

We did not have quorum so the March minutes and report will be voted on next month.

Notes:

Congratulations to Casey Hettman for becoming the Lieutenant for BHU.

Body-Worn Cameras

The Body-Worn Camera (BWC) workgroup attended 18 different community meetings to find out what the community wanted to see in a future BWC directive/policy. A policy is being drafted and will be sent to unions for their review soon. Additionally, the draft policy will be presented to a stake-holders meeting, will then be up for community review, and then it will go to City Council.

Tamara then gave a general background on body-worn cameras from 2013 to today. Where the funding is coming from and how much City Council has set aside for the program. Technology from 2013 to today has changed and there have been a number of other agencies who have had body worn cameras for a few years now and PPB is looking at what has worked and what hasn't.

The workgroup studied various policies and focused on four key areas: notification, retention, release, and use during public demonstrations. (See slide show:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/710045>)

The policy workgroup reviewed and specifically covered six main areas (with guidance from outside agency policy reviews):

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Mandatory Activation: covers Oregon Law & list the majority of agencies and listed some of the outliers in various agencies.

Prohibited Activation: covers Oregon Law & list the majority of policies from other agencies and listed outliers.

Deactivation: Oregon law does not specifically address this, there is a list of what the majority of agencies cover and the outliers

Discretionary or Temporary Deactivation is covered. Policy will include many of the basics covered by other agencies.

When an Officer can Review? This was the most contentious in community meetings. Many people have various thoughts on the policy.

When can a Supervisor Review? There were good conversations back and forth about this policy and they will be writing in some suggestions.

All of the notes from these committee meetings are on the body worn camera website:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/78485>

The draft policy is currently being finalized and it will be taken to City Council for review soon.

Will there be an exception for the Behavioral Health Response Teams? Those officers will have cameras and will follow the policy in place, however the policy is written such that once Project Respond shows up and clinical evaluation starts, the camera will be turned off.

How will this affect AMR involvement? AMR has not been defined specifically in the draft policy.

CAHOOTS Model

Casey and Emily traveled to Eugene to observe the CAHOOTS model. CAHOOTS is a program of the White Bird Clinic in Eugene. There have been a number of meetings at City Hall to discuss the potential viability of a similar model here in Portland. CAHOOTS operates 2-3 vans that run 24 hours per day. Vans are staffed with an EMT and a crisis worker (not licensed or master level clinician) to 'low level' calls to assist subjects who need basic wound care or low level clinical care. The CAHOOTS responders do have police radios in case they need police assistance, or the individual they are working with need to be placed on a hold for mental health evaluation. The CAHOOTS responders are dispatched in various ways: from citizen calls for service, to police requests. Dispatch decides when to send CAHOOTS instead of Fire, Medical, or Police.

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One of the BHUAC committee members recently conducted a ride along with CAHOOTS in Eugene. The member reported responding to all different types of calls from a bloody nose to people in crisis. They said that it was very collaborative between the EMT and the crisis worker.

Cahoots handled about 16,500 calls in 2017.

Eugene has been very supportive of the program and Street Roots recently wrote an article, which has spurred discussion about it here in Portland.

How is it funded? In Eugene the program is funded by the Police. The stakeholder group is taking a step back to look at what Portland currently HAS, are looking at other potential models available, and are considering if there is a cross-over that might be effective.

A BHUAC Committee Member with knowledge of the program reported that the White Bird Clinic has a unique approach to the work they are doing and recreating that in Portland would be difficult. They added that putting a firefighter EMT and a clinician in a van may not work. Inserting the smaller city system into a large city will be difficult. Many of those in Cascadia hope that it comes to fruition here, but recreating it will be difficult. It's not just a matter of getting people in a van. The service most resembling the CAHOOTS model in Portland is the Portland Street Medicine team. It's about engagement and respect. They take a very different approach while out in the community.

What is the definition of a low priority call? Many calls are already being diverted to Project Respond or the Crisis Line. The goal is to divert these low priority calls away from Police, but doing so may not stop police involvement. What is the BOEC data? What are the differences between low priority calls in Eugene compared to Portland. What is the acuity of the people they are interacting with? Statistically, Multnomah County has the highest acuity of people in Oregon. It's hard to define the outcome of a program before you know the statistics. Define the program first. White Bird and CAHOOTS work because it's built on process and community.

CAHOOTS is a totally voluntary program. When they went to a suicide call the police had called them after the gun portion of the situation had been taken care of and then they stepped in and spoke to him. Police were still involved.

Where are the gaps in Portland's services? Needs to start with defining what services are not being met, besides just not sending Police to a call. What are the BOEC calls that ECIT and Project Respond aren't meeting? Unity already has a PEZ department and there isn't a place for them to go after that. The lack of infrastructure after contact is an issue.

Can this group write a letter to City Council/County covering BOEC data, system maps, recommending more information? Potentially recommend that decisions not be made until more information is gathered.

A letter will be drafted and emailed to the group for review.

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OPEN MEETING DISCUSSION

There was not quorum so voting on this subject wasn't possible. Does the BHUAC go with the statute as is? How does the BHUAC become more open and engaging to the communities it serves? The BHUAC members will change over time and making that decision for the group, as a whole, is difficult.

What are the reasons for voting on this? What are the reasons for NOT voting on this? The minutes as posted publicly on the website, but does it need to be more accessible? Discussed how to solicit feedback and educate the public about the work of BHUAC. How do we protect the work being done and protect the members so they feel they can speak freely and engage people.

Committee members brainstormed ideas of the possibility of opening meetings once a quarter, how to share the website more freely, how to create a way for community members submit questions/comments, and possibly creating a blog.

Will continue discussion in the next BHUAC meeting.

The next meeting will be on May 29th, 2019 2pm – 4 pm

Please note this is not on the regularly scheduled 4th Wednesday.