

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 29th, 2019

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman PPB BHU; ***Ofc. Jim Stegemeyer** PPB CIT; **Emily Rochon**, PPB SCT; **Beth Epps**, Cascadia; **Capt. Jarmer** Multnomah County Sherriff's Office; **Cissie Bollinger**, Oregon Health Authority OHA); **Melanie Payne**, Bureau Of Emergency Communications (BOEC), **Janie Gullickson**, Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHAAO); **Leticia Sainz**, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services; ***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; ***Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier**, POC Led Cross Disability Coalition; **Sgt. Benson Weinberger**, PPB BHU; **Sgt. Stephen Mirau**, PPB BHU

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Report & Minutes

March Minutes – Leticia Sainz motioned to approve, Emily Rochon seconded. Beth Epps abstained
M/S/P

March Report – Leticia Sainz motioned to approve, Melanie Payne seconded. Beth Epps abstained.
M/S/P

April minutes – Beth Epps motioned to approve, Leticia Sainz seconded. Melanie Payne, Nick Jarmer and Cissy Bollinger abstained. **M/S/P**

April Report- Beth Epps motioned to approve, Emily Rochon seconded. Melanie Payne, Nick Jarmer and Cissy Bollinger abstained. **M/S/P**

Notes: Cristina Nieves, Kathleen Roy and Wyndham McNair have seen a need to step down due to constraints on their time.

Introductions and Updates:

A/Sgt. Benson Weinberger was introduced to the group. A/Sgt. Weinberger has joined the BHU as one of the unit's two sergeants.

BHU Lt. Casey Hettman and SCT Program Manager Emily Rochon recently went before City Council with requests to extend the SCT and Cascadia Clinician contracts. The ordinance to extend the Police Bureau's contract with Cascadia for three years, to supply five full-time clinicians, was approved by City Council. The SCT contract extension ordinance presentation included a number of current and former SCT clients. They strongly advocated for the program, in what was emotional and extremely impactful testimony. Ultimately, the SCT contract ordinance was approved as well. Both of the approved ordinances extended the respective contracts for a 3 year period of time.

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 29th, 2019

Community Engagement / Messaging Opportunities:

A recent survey was conducted that polled Portland residents regarding services provided by the Police Bureau. A portion of the survey addressed the Bureau's work with individuals experiencing mental health crises. Results of the survey showed declining numbers in perceptions of the Bureau's work with persons experiencing mental health concerns.

A committee member asked if the survey came out before or after the Street Roots article regarding the CAHOOTS program. It was reported that the survey occurred before the article was printed. The committee member noted that in some community meetings there is a bit of a "negative vibe" towards police.

The discussion then focused on how PPB reaches out to the public and what platforms they utilized in those efforts. Twitter, Facebook and others, but those are used to profile work being done within the Police Bureau, but they are limited in providing specific information about how officers handle encounters with different groups.

It was pointed out that the younger generations aren't fully aware of what the police are doing (that isn't posted online) and outreach and development of connections with varied groups of people is sometimes difficult. The Portland Police Bureau recently started producing a podcast "Talking Beat" – you can find it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37r1pnCJXNQ>. Recently, one of the episodes highlighted Lt. Casey Hettman and one of the BHU clinician's talking about a typical day at BHU.

Potential outreach efforts were also discussed. The potential of expanding the citizen academy and offering it to more groups was discussed. Other avenues for outreach efforts included: National Night Out and presentations about the work of BHU and SCT.

CAHOOTS Model:

The group looked at a PDF that was sent in an email discussion relating to "Portland Street Response". Discussion centered on cost and where the information on the flyer came from and a question on messaging. The last print version of Street Roots had a version of the website on its back page. There are many groups looking at the gaps within the community's larger mental health and emergency response systems and attempting to address them. The group felt that there seems to be a misperception that police wouldn't be going to go to crisis calls anymore, which is a false pretense. There were concerns about putting clinicians in harm's way. Concerns were also raised about the viability of scaling a "CAHOOT's" model, which works great in Eugene, to a city the size of Portland. The big question seems to be once someone is in the response van – where do you take them? Eugene has said that they are only "in the moment" crisis response, they don't have a Unity and they only have one shelter. People still cycle in Eugene. To scale that up to Portland would be difficult for its size and the acuity of the

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 29th, 2019

patients they would be dealing with. OHCS will receive a bit over \$4 million for housing services, outreach and there might be a possibility for partnership.

The committee believes that there may be a need to step back and to look at the bigger picture surrounding this topic. There has been money earmarked from the City Council to “look at the framework” of what could work. The discussion then went to who was on the committee meeting discussing this and who was missing from the meeting.

Who pays for CHIER’s? The Police Bureau does. Currently PPB covers the cost of CHIERs, SCT, the BHU clinicians and 54 beds at a rough cost of 3-4 million a year.

The hold criteria and how long someone could be put on a hold and the Involuntary Commitment Program (ICP) was briefly touched on. Expanding hold criteria needs to be coupled with an increase in services available.

Maybe an infographic about the safety net that is available could be represented. How many things overlap and how many things need to go right, how many things need to be available for that person to receive help? How many barriers to service are there? City services only go so far. What are we really trying to solve?

Emily Rochon and Casey Hettman are going to the next meeting, can they take a few questions from the BHUAC to the group? Would that be O.K. with the group? The BHUAC is working on a formal letter to the group, but informal questions might be a good starting point. IE: “What is a low priority incident,” “How many of those are there in Portland,” “Who is the audience they are trying to serve, and who is advocating for them?” and “How is this different that the Mobile crisis group that the County currently operates?”

The group also discussed whether the Mayor might be able to come to one of the meetings and listen to the BHUAC concerns about the above topic. Would it be more beneficial to have one or two of the other Commissioners come to the meeting?

Open Meetings

There was a very brief discussion about where the committee is on open meetings. The main discussion was around potentially voting on the subject and who would abstain. Committee members are all aware of the situation and the previous request regarding open meetings. At this time no committee member has made a motion to bring the issue to a vote. The need to have a public face or have a way to reach out to others has been discussed in the last meetings and was touched on again. It was proposed that next month’s agenda have a space to discuss ways for BHUAC to be more public facing.

**Next meeting June 26th, 2019
2-4 PM on the 11th floor of the Justice Center**