

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman, PPB BHU; *Emily Rochon, PPB SCT; Beth Epps, Cascadia; *Capt. Nicholas 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 (MHA AO); Leticia Sainz, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services; LaKeesha Dumas, Office of Consumer Engagement-Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Division; *Juliana Wallace, Unity; Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier, POC-Led Cross Disability Coalition, DRO (Disability Rights Oregon) Representative/Disability Refugee Community of Oregon; Sgt. Benson Weinberger, PPB BHU; *Sgt. Stephen Mirau, PPB BHU; Mary Claire Buckley, PPB Office of Inspector General; Jill Archer, Care Oregon; *Grant Hartley, Multnomah Public Defender's Office; *Robert King, Commissioner's Staff Representative

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Report & Minutes

July Minutes – Motioned to approve and seconded. **M/S/P**. One member abstained.

July Report – Motioned to approve and seconded. **M/S/P**. One member abstained.

Updates

- **Lt. Casey Hettman** – provided update on progress of Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) reviews.

Committee Work:

- **Review BHUAC Bylaws** (*NOT DISCUSSED THIS MEETING – Prioritizing for Next Meeting*)
Article 2 - Mission Statement needs to be updated regarding settlement agreement language.
Article 7 – Consideration of removal of certain portions that are no longer applicable (monthly reports would still occur as mandated from original settlement agreement).
Compare 2013 & 2017 bylaws for final edits of 2020 bylaws

- **Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) Reviews (BHRT Sgt., Threat Assessment Sgt.)**

Two new SOP's were created in order to solidify the job duties and tasks of the two Sergeant positions within the Behavioral Health Unit.

SOP #1-5 BHRT/Behavioral Health Response Team Sergeant:

BHUAC reviewed the document and asked clarifying questions regarding specific language and references in the SOP. Questions regarding reference to SOP #3-2 and if clinicians had multiple

BHUAC Meeting Minutes 09/23/2020

supervisors. SOP #3-2 is the Standard Operation Procedures for the Behavioral Health Response Teams. Formal supervision is provided by Cascadia for the BHRT Clinicians.

There was extended discussion of how PPB defines a use of force event, ex: someone resisting and pulling away from the handcuffs.

Additional clarification was requested regarding the topic of internal outreach. Clarification was given regarding different precincts and shifts and what form coordination efforts routinely take.

Members suggested:

- 2. Add "(i.e. sustained use of force complaint)."
- 5.A. Replace "citizens" with, "community members."
- 5.B. Replace "Citizen groups" to "community groups."
- 5.D. Replace "Occasional meetings" to "occasional meetings/events outside of regular work hours."

10. Spell out TARP as Threat Assessment Referral Program

14. Omit the word "Threat"

Motioned to approve and seconded. 1-5 is approved WITH EDITS.

SOP #1-6 Threat Assessment Sergeant:

Motioned to approve and seconded. 1-6 is approved.

It is important to note the committee reviewed and approved the SOP #1-6 as written, but generated a larger discussion amongst the group.

A member requested why, "equity lens or trauma-informed" was not included in the language.

A different member asked, "Would it behoove PPB to highlight the umbrella policies as a preamble of sorts? A benchmark or cornerstone with guiding principles?" Additionally, we can look to perhaps put a segment at the top of the SOP which sets the tone for the position.

PPB understands the importance of utilizing an equity lens in the decision making process and as a bureau of the City of Portland we utilize the Human Resource Core Values.

Discussed inserting a segment at the top of the SOP's which can set the tone for the positions, but ultimately it was determined that an overarching SOP should be created for the entire BHU team. This SOP will be a reflection of core values and racial equity. It will give an opportunity for

BHUAC Meeting Minutes 09/23/2020

all participants in the unit to be included. At this time in the meeting, there was no longer quorum, as one member had to depart for another meeting. It was agreed upon to send out the determination via email to Committee Members and request an electronic vote.

Presentation – The Coalition of PPB Advisory Councils (BHUAC Member Presentation)

A member of the BHUAC is also a member of The Coalition of PPB Advisory Councils and has participated in a number of meetings to date. The Coalition brings a number of Police Bureau advisory councils together, all of which provide guidance to the Police Bureau. The joined councils are working to lift a combined voice and messaging on important topics facing the Bureau.

In the most recent meeting there was explanation and discussion about positions in the Rapid Response Team (RRT), Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) utilized, what the purpose of the sound truck is and what differentiates a peaceful protest vs an unlawful assembly or riot.

It was reported that Ofc. Natasha Hansberger facilitates the meetings and does a fantastic job.

Discussion

In reference to The Coalition of PPB Advisory Councils, two separate members advised they were willing to attend meetings if the regular BHUAC representative is unable to.

The Coalition of Advisory Councils drafted a joint letter to be delivered to City leaders. Commentary regarding the letter and suggested edits:

What are some major points of reform to bring to the Mayor and Commissioners?

- Violence
- Police Reform – participation of all interested parties, engage the community and have more broad input
- This needs to be data driven. Include actual facts which have been accounted for.
- Focus on engagement opportunities for the entire community. Do a better job of informing and including the community in an effort to build trust and transparency.
- Disability Coalition needs to be included in the Committee.
- Make the clear point that we are already participating in this as community members. Give our most recent example of reviewing the SOPs.
- ‘ALL LIVES MATTER’ language within the document seems inappropriate.
- A community engagement plan
- We should not discount any of the work that has already been done.

BHUAC Meeting Minutes 09/23/2020

- Instead of saying, “Who’s at fault?” We should change the language to, “Who is accountable?” It doesn’t as easily lend itself to defensiveness. You’ll find a more receptive audience dependent on the thoughtful language utilized.
- Additional emails will be sent for further suggestions to modify the letter
- BHUAC is a successful committee model, why not garner that attention and model it?

**The next meeting will be October 28, 2020
2-4 PM via Zoom Meeting**