

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 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

September Minutes – Jill Archer Motioned to approve and Beth Epps seconded. **M/S/P.** Cissie Bollinger, Grant Hartley, Emily Rochon and Capt. Nicholas Jarmer abstained.

September Report – Beth Epps Motioned to approve and Leticia Sainz seconded. **M/S/P.** Cissie Bollinger, Grant Hartley, Emily Rochon, and Capt. Nicholas Jarmer abstained.

Updates

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

Advised that PPB concluded their annual Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training (ECIT) in-service. Officers completed 10 hours of in-service training pertaining to crisis intervention.

BHU developed a one-hour interactive video entitled, "The Role and Responsibilities of all PPB Members on Mental Health Related Calls." All sworn Bureau Members are required to complete this training. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person training, this curriculum is video-based but has interaction built in. Members are unable to skip ahead and are required to answer questions throughout the presentation. The lesson plan was shared with the committee. These are ongoing yearly updates and the training emphasizes and reinforces ECIT Officers roles for other non-ECIT officers so that ECIT is best utilized. The training explains the importance of identifying when to fill out a mental health template and recognizing the importance of changing the call type to an ECIT when appropriate.

The BHU is down one Officer/Clinician team at present due to internal staff rearrangement and a resignation. There is an Officer chosen to join the BHU but due to a shortage in staffing he is still needed at Central Precinct.

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BHU assignment criteria has remained the same. Assigned cases are down about 12 per month, which is approximately 48 cases per month. 46% of referrals are being assigned.

- **Coalition of Advisory Groups** – Janie Gullickson – The name has been changed from, “**Coalition of Councils,**” to the **Coalition of Advisory Groups (CAG)**. The next meeting will be held on 11/02/2020 at 5:30pm. BHUAC Committee members indicated they had interest in attending the meeting.

Committee Work:

- Review and update BHUAC Bylaws (last updated 2017) (*NOT DISCUSSED THIS MEETING – Prioritizing for Next Meeting*)
- SOP #2-2 Review Threat Assessment Referral Program, (TARP) DRAFT REVIEW.

In Policy section - Review HIPPA substantive disorder language.

A committee member questioned if someone else will be reviewing this SOP from the other units.

- *The answer is no because the TARP program/system is overseen and managed by BHU.*

A committee member inquired if this system is biased?

- *The response detailed that BHU Sergeants are the individuals who triage each referral. Anything that is assigned needs concrete evidence to move forward. The concerns have to be verifiable. The intention of the TARP program is in no way looking to target individuals. This system was created as a means to find efficiencies, create cohesiveness within the Bureau and ultimately getting information to the correct people in a timely manner.*

A request to provide an anonymous example of a case and what the ultimate action/resolution looked like was requested by the committee.

- *BHU gave three examples across the targeted threat spectrum to illustrate the benefits of TARP.*

Specifically what constitutes a TARP referral? The committee recommended that the BHU put this process of assignment into writing to preemptively reduce a bias line of thinking or presumption.

- *BHU stated that, in the TARP SOP Draft as it stands now, Section I, and para.4 specifies what constitutes a TARP referral.*

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A committee member inquired about the process of purging the TARP system – after one year of no contact by police the individual goes out of the system. Prior to the purge the record reflects, “if the person was never assigned or never had police contact.” Committee members recommended a section in reference to the referral purge process be added to the SOP.

- *BHU stated that in the TARP SOP Draft as it stands now, Section III, “Reporting, Compliance and Retention” contains information regarding retention policies.*
- *The Portland Police Bureau recognizes they have a responsibility to insure the information contained within the TARP is maintained, used and protected appropriately. This SOP and its obligations are subject to audit by PPB. PPB agrees to maintain all records relating to operations consistent with PPB procedures governing records retention.*
- *The BHU Sergeant, with the assistance of the BHU Crime Analyst, will prepare a compliance report on an annual basis to conform to the calendar year. The TARP annual audit will be reviewed through channels to the Assistant Chief of Operations. The annual audit will identify who was granted access to TARP, any outside information requests and any exceptions granted by the Community Services Division (CSD) Captain. If discrepancies or concerns are found during the annual audit, the Community Services Division Captain will prepare a report that details the merit of the inquiries and propose a solution to any inquiries identified that do not fall within the scope of this SOP.*
- *Information about an individual will be purged from the TARP 10 (ten) years after the last known law enforcement contact.*

A request to clarify spectrum of thresholds to get assigned within the SOP’s and to provide a non-exhaustive list of what the criteria would be.

- *BHU stated that, in the TARP SOP Draft as it stands now, Section I, and para.4 specifies what constitutes a TARP referral. BHU stated that it would look at creating examples to go with the assignment definitions, with the understanding that not all referrals are “created equal” and sometimes referrals fit into multiple assignment criteria.*
- *Also, BHU reiterated that each individual who uses this program is trained individually and in a group setting so they are aware of what the parameters are for assignment.*
- *It was reiterated that equity and implicit bias training is provided to all Bureau members so that bias can be prevented.*

Numerous amendments were discussed and it was determined the BHUAC would table it for this month to allow for additional review, insight and potential changes.

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Presentation – Threat Assessment Referral Program (TARP) – Frank Silva

Main Points Discussed:

- What is threat assessment?
- What does the application do?
- Results/Outcomes of implementation

TARP –

Initially the definitions of reactive violence vs. targeted violence were presented and discussed. Specifically expanding upon the details of targeted violence which include: targeted *focus* on individuals, groups or locations, the person *plans and prepares* before engaging in the act(s) of violence, and the planning and preparation are often *detectable* which in turn provides an opportunity for disruption.

When assessing a potential threat for targeted violence it must be fact-based and focus on patterns of thinking and behavior – identifying or fixating on previous acts of terror. We call it leakage. Are they moving towards an attack on an identifiable target?

PPB Units ran into a lot of conflicts and overlap internally. When the system was created PPB had four units which received potential threat information, The Criminal Intelligence Unit, The Domestic Violence Reduction Unit, The Behavioral Health Unit, and The Youth Services Division. BHU identified the need for a more cohesive process and plan to synthesize this information. We did not have a way of actively managing this. Thus, a plan for a standardized repository was created.

PPB's Threat Assessment Process prior to the creation of TARP consisted of information often being placed in silos, not only with partners, but within the PPB itself. As it stood threat assessment referrals were often delayed or not in "real time," due to both reporting and human constraints.

PPB leveraged pre-existing technology to build an application (app) for threat referrals to be received and evaluated by the various PPB units to assess potential threats of targeted violence. The app is on every Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and desktop in the organization; any member (sworn and/or civilian) can make a TARP referral. The app is designed to supplement a report, email, or phone call; while at the same time decrease patrol/operations duplication of work.

TARP Referral Assignment Process Overview:

- Step 1: App is opened on MDT or desktop
- Step 2: Referral is completed and sent to a queue
- Step 3: Notifications of referrals in queue are sent automatically
- Step 4: Triaging of referrals based on information in the queue

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Types of threats PPB uses with the TARP app were defined. These are provided to users to assist in the description of the threat/incident. They included:

- Violent delusions
- Threats against government
- Terroristic threats
- Workplace violence
- Stalking
- Intimate partner violence
- School violence
- Other (any threat which does not fit one of the above categories)

The work unit assigned is dependent upon which type of incident is chosen by the user and will automatically populate in the queue. TARP referrals can be shifted between PPB units and multiple units can work with a threat case. For example, if the mental health box was checked on the referral form and the terroristic threats box was checked, the sergeants of those work units will both be notified and collaborate to triage the assessment of the threat.

The anticipated benefits of the TARP app include:

- PPB members can easily communicate with the units that assess potential threats of targeted violence.
- “Real time” information of potential threats of targeted violence are efficiently triaged to the PPB units that assess threat.
- The TARP app automatically notifies *designated staff*, which expedites active measure campaigns.
- PPB has a central repository of referred threats that are more easily managed.

TARP Performance measures consist of:

- Efficiency
 - Number of TARP referrals processed in a year
 - Amount of time (days) spent on referral
 - Reduction in report writing time for officers
- Effectiveness
 - The percentage of TARP referrals that result in “Level Two” assessments
 - The percentage of repeat TARP referrals
- Workload
 - Number of TARP referrals received in a year
 - Number of individuals that received a TARP referral

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-Average TARP referrals per week

Discussion

What does this application do? Triage work at a standardized level.

The internal feedback is positive because it is viewed in real-time which is a great impact on addressing the potential threat faster.

The system provides historical context and continuity for the users.

There have been approximately 100 TARP Referrals since January 2020. A committee member requested what the outcome was? Answer – there have been numerous outcomes to include mitigation or deactivation after a proper review. A referral doesn't mean a face-to-face is necessary or will occur. Where is the repository stored? In-house and there is a limit on who has access to this information in-house as well.

A valid example of why the TARP system is helpful for the PPB is that the PPB records department is backlogged by about three weeks right now. With the old system to assess threats this could have been a potential problem.

A committee member inquired about potential for information leakage. Answer: The Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) does not have access to our internal system. Confidentiality agreements are signed and individuals involved in the assessment process are not allowed to talk about it outside of the room.

**The next meeting will be December 02, 2020
2-4 PM via Zoom Meeting**