

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Monday, September 12, 2022

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Tri-chairs: *Scott Osiecki*, ADAMHS Board; **Commissioner Nicole Carlton**, Cleveland EMS; **not present:** Cleveland Division of Police

Participants: *Hassan Aden*, Cleveland Police Consent Decree Monitor; **Zuhaib H. Badami**, Firsthand; **Carole Ballard**, ADAMHS Board; **Angela Brewer**, Solon Treatment/Pinnacle; **Christie Bunch**, Oriana House, Inc.; **Angela Cecys**, FrontLine Service; **Gabriella Celeste**, Schubert Center for Child Studies, Case Western Reserve University; **Richard Cirillo**, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities; **Rosemary Creeden**, FrontLine Service; **Dr. Randolph Dupont**, City of Cleveland Monitoring team; **Bree Easterling**, Policy Matters Ohio; **Joan Englund**, MHAC; **Mike Evanovich**, DOJ; **Lauren Joy Fraley**, Community Advocate; **Cassey Fye**, NAMI Greater Cleveland; **Benjamin Gohlstin**, ADAMHS Board Past Chair; **Elena Gonzalez**, Firsthand; **Yolanda Y. Gordon**, Cleveland Municipal Court; **Larry Heller**, N.O.R.A.; **Samantha Holmes**, Cleveland Department of Public Health; **Shannon Jerse**, Sisters of Charity Health; **Christina Kalnicki**, Aetna/OhioRise; **Robin Larson**, Oriana House, Inc.; **Liz Lattner**, Legal Aid; **Karima McCree-Wilson**; **Jodi Mitchell**, Aetna/OhioRise; **Sgt. John Mullin**, Cleveland Division of Police; **Anya Nazarenko**, CWRU; **Rick Oliver**, FrontLine Service; **Rosie Palfy**, Community Advocate; **Josiah Quarles**, NEOCH; **Mike Randle**, Oriana House, Inc.; **Clare Rosser**, ADAMHS Board; **Elaine Schleiffer**, REACH-NEO; **Tina Scott**, Cleveland Documenters; **Charles See**, City of Cleveland Monitoring team; **Cid Standifer**, Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative; **Carolyn Szweda**, Beech Brook; **Karolyn Tibayan**, Firsthand; **Rodney Thomas**, CWRU; **Jay Youngless**, Cleveland Division of Police Data Team; **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, ADAMHS Board

Goals of the MHRAC:

- Fostering relationships and support between the police, community and mental health providers;
- Identifying problems and developing solutions to improve crisis outcomes;
- Providing guidance to improving, expanding and sustaining the CPD Crisis Intervention Program;
- Conducting a yearly analysis of incidents to determine if the CPD has enough specialized CIT officers, if they are deployed effectively and responding appropriately and recommending changes to policies and procedures regarding training.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome – *Osiecki*

- Scott Osiecki, CEO of the ADAMHS Board, noted that MHRAC Tri-chair Deputy Chief Joellen O'Neill retired from the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP). Deputy Chief Sammy Morris may be serving in that role in the future, but he was unavailable for today's meeting. The CDP Tri-chair position is vacant for this meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – *Osiecki*

- There were no comments.

Review/Acceptance of July Meeting Summary – *Osiecki*

- One change was requested: Rosie Palfy noted that a comment about homelessness funding was misattributed to her.
- Other discussion:

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- A member asked if Sgt. John Mullin's role with the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Office was temporary. He is supporting the office until a CIT Coordinator is assigned.
- Heller asked if we need a committee to address diversion and all-access crisis centers for east and west areas of Cuyahoga County.
- Osiecki said that the MHRAC was not where that has been discussed historically, but it might have been addressed through the work of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC).
- Heller noted that the previous Diversion Sub-committee discussed it and maybe the City of Cleveland should be looking at that.
- Palfy noted that the 2015 Mental Health Task Force did discuss diversion.
- Osiecki noted that the charge of the MHRAC is to advise the City of Cleveland.
- Josiah Quarles noted that the conversation about care response has not happened in the MHRAC because it is not a police response, though dispatch is involved. He noted that the ADAMHS Board supports a care-response model, but said that the MHRAC should also put forward a recommendation on care response because it is relevant to the work of the MHRAC.
- Osiecki thanked him for his comments.
- Heller referenced the San Antonio crisis center model.
- Gabriella Celeste agreed that care response should be addressed and asked if non-law enforcement crisis responses had been included in past MHRAC plans.
- Osiecki noted that the ADAMHS Board supports a care-response option.
- Palfy said the March 2021 presentation at the MHRAC was about care response, featuring Fountain House and Magnolia Clubhouse. She said she is disappointed that City is going forward with expanding co-responder teams without informing the MHRAC, when it is the role of the MHRAC to make recommendations.

Retreat Update – Osiecki

- Osiecki said that the CDP CIT Coordinator should be involved in the retreat, but the position is not yet filled.
- Sgt. Mullin said there was no update on the selection process; CDP is waiting on next round of promotions, but no official date.
- Dr. Randy Dupont also said he had no updates.
- Palfy asked if the Tri-chairs will say what they want to change about the MHRAC.
- She also noted that in the CDP Table of Organization, the CIT Coordinator reports to Deputy Chief of Field Operations.
- Celeste asked how long CDP has not had a CIT Coordinator; since March 2022.

Sub-committee Reports:

Community Engagement – Englund/DeJesus

- The last meeting was canceled. The group will meet again immediately following this meeting.
- Discussion will include community conversations, status of TV20, recommendations for Tri-chairs, and updating resource cards.

Training – Ballard

- A small subgroup has been creating the outline of goals and objectives for the in-service training on suicide. They are receiving assistance from FrontLine Service, MetroHealth, and the CDP to address topics like assessing ambivalence, 988, suicide by cop, OhioRise for youth-related issues, how to serve vulnerable populations including elderly and LGBTQ, and other concerns officers have expressed.
- Palfy asked how many have taken the 40-hour training and how many have left the CDP.
- Ballard noted that 126 CDP officers have taken the 40-hour CIT training since 2020, but she did not have the number in terms of attrition.

Quality Improvement – Thomas

- Rodney Thomas noted that staff from the Norma Herr Women’s Center attended the QI meeting. However, representatives from the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men’s Shelter could not attend.
- Case Western and the CDP data team are compiling yearly comparison data for next QI meeting. The data will be preliminary.
- Palfy asked when the QI Sub-committee will start analyzing data on whether we are dispatching Specialized CIT officers to crisis calls. She noted complaints through the City’s Office of Professional Standards (OPS), with complaints including responses to calls for domestic violence or crisis, someone with mental illness feeling ignored, emergency commitment orders, and police reports not being done.
- Thomas noted that those are supplemental data sets and sources. He said at some point the QI Sub-committee will look at the Specialized CIT component.
- Palfy suggested that if the MHRAC put in public records request to the City, it would in theory go faster than a request from an individual. Beth Zietlow-DeJesus said it moves at the same speed through the City regardless of its origin.
- Celeste asked about the status of Dr. Ronnie Dunn’s report.
- Dr. Dupont said that Dr. Dunn is reviewing the data collected by the Monitoring Team related to body-camera footage, and is developing the report, which will be shared with this group. The report is not ready.
- Hassan Aden, Cleveland Consent Decree Monitor, said that the process for Monitoring Team reports is that they review it internally, then he approves the report and prepares it to file with the court. That is in process right now. The report becomes a public document once they file it with the court.
- Celeste says that she is confused about the role of the QI Sub-committee. She said they were told months ago that they would see a preliminary report on use of handcuffs.
- Aden noted that reviewing body-worn camera footage is time consuming, and requires multiple reviewers.
- Celeste asked if they are going to file the report with the QI Sub-committee before filing with the court.
- Aden said he would talk to Dr. Dupont and Dr. Dunn, though Aden would like to share it with the QI Sub-committee first. He noted that typically, they file reports with the court first and then share.
- Charles See asked Palfy if complaints against OPS have increased. She said that she believes so.
- Palfy noted that this is the first time she heard that handcuffs report would be filed with the courts. She noted that the QI Sub-committee has not seen any body-camera footage in seven years. She said she looked at the Monitoring Team’s billing statement from December related to this review.
- Heller asked that Dr. Dunn’s report be added to the next meeting’s agenda.
- Heller said that perhaps the MHRAC could ask Dr. Dunn about an earlier report on police discrimination that was done during the time of the Mental Health Task Force. He suggested that the study be repeated to see if there are improvements in this area.
- Samantha Holmes added that from a health equity and justice perspective, it could show trends over the last five years, and how trends have changed, improved, or stabilized for marginalized communities.
- Jay Youngless clarified that none of the 36 juvenile females handcuffed in 2021 were arrested.

Policy Ad Hoc – Mullin

- CDP received three policies last week. The CDP will review them and prepare them to be filed with the court. Sgt. Mullin noted that very few corrections came back from the Monitoring Team.

Meeting Guidelines Ad Hoc

- Palfy said that she did not like the note that this ad hoc sub-committee was “on hold until CIT Coordinator is hired” because it sounds like a new person would dictate the meetings.
- Osiecki said that the wording was not completely right; it was on hold until the retreat.

Open Discussion

- Quarles asked to circle back to why the MHRAC has not made a recommendation to the City about care response as way to address mental health crisis, as they are expanding co-responder teams. He stated that he thinks it is this body's role to make a statement on care response.
- Osiecki asked Joan Englund of the Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) to address the issue.
- Englund noted that work is being done through the Council of Agency Directors, the ADAMHS Board and others. She said that a joint letter was sent from the Center for Community Solutions, Magnolia Clubhouse, Policy Matters, and the MHAC to Mayor Justin Bibb to provide education on the different types of crisis response, and to advocate for care response.
- Heller asked if the MHRAC needs a sub-committee on homelessness.
- Quarles noted that Cincinnati separated dispatch from their police department over 10 years ago and already coordinate 988 calls as part of their new care response program.
- Celeste asks who decides for the MHRAC whether they want to provide recommendations on topics like care response.
- Elaine Schleiffer asked what process needs to be followed to produce that recommendation. She noted that it is time to take action, since care response programming requests are actively in front of the City now.
- Quarles shared the [link](#) for the upcoming City Club forum on crisis response.
- Palfy noted that she is questioning why we have an MHRAC. She noted that the City references the Police Commission, not the MHRAC. She noted that the City created a team for the Consent Decree called the Police Accountability Team (PAT). She asked, how will we work collaboratively with them? What is substantial compliance for crisis intervention with the Consent Decree? She also noted that the City is trying to terminate the Consent Decree as soon as possible.
- Aden confirmed that the City created a Police Accountability Team. He said there are 400 paragraphs requiring compliance, and the team will help with deliverables and proof of compliance. He noted that the Monitoring Team had been asking for that for years. He said "we are not there yet" to determine compliance. However, crisis intervention is one area that is "closer."
- Palfy said she is frustrated that the City cites crisis intervention as a success story for the Consent Decree, but when they issue a press release, MHRAC is not mentioned.
- She noted that the City is two years minimum away from compliance.
- Aden confirmed that there is a sustainability phase of two years. The City must demonstrate substantial compliance and then "the clock starts for two years."
- Angela Cecys noted that MHRAC and its sub-committees have done an exceptional job moving things forward. She reminded the group of positive progress. She cited improvements shown by Brazos CIT reports, and the decrease in use of force. She said that CDP has made improvements.
- Palfy said she says she is not questioning the CDP because the use of force is down, arrests are down. But she is questioning why the work is being put on the staff from the ADAMHS Board, when this is the City's responsibility.
- Palfy noted that a community survey hasn't happened, and that would have helped in making recommendations.
- Schleiffer asked, how do we have a conversation about care response? She said she feels this body is the right place to have the conversation, because the MHRAC has "all the tendrils" into all the right places, and has a history of creating policy.
- Clare Rosser noted that the group is talking about two areas of the MHRAC: the structure and the scope, and then the mechanics of the work. She said that 2015 when the MHRAC began looked different than 2022.
- Ballard noted that there is an evolution of the MHRAC, and good things have happened in the Committee over the past seven years. She asked how co-response, care response and other approaches fit within the confines of MHRAC, and that we need to set those boundaries.
- Christina Kalnecki from OhioRise said that MRSS is available to anyone on Medicaid, and questioned how this will impact crisis response. Thrive Behavioral Health has the contract to manage MRSS for the state. She offered set up a presentation about it if there is interest.

- Palfy continued the discussion on alternative care response. She noted that the City is proposing to expand co-responder teams using ARPA funds, and it may come to a vote before end of September. She asked participants to read the MHRAC charge in the consent decree. She said the MHRAC needs to educate the community about CIT and other aspects of alternative response. She said the MHRAC should do a community survey.
- Heller said he would like to call for a motion. Osiecki noted that the Chair/Tri-chairs control the call for motions, and asked that Heller provide his specific request in writing.
- Heller noted: “My understanding is that this body can address whatever the members/attendees want to address (within limits). I believe anyone can make a motion to do something, and we can discuss and vote, or we can simply add something to agenda.”
- Palfy asked for a Diversion Center update.
- Schleiffer noted: “If we are waiting on a CIT Coordinator to have the retreat, and can’t make a recommendation on care response prior to the completion of reporting coming out of that retreat, it seems likely that the recommendation will be walking behind the possibilities of program funding and piloting that are under discussion.”
- Holmes asked to add information regarding Quick Response Teams (QRT) for opiate response to information cards or resource directories, because QRT is part of diversion.
- Celeste shared that the Schubert Center will be hosting a care response for youth in crisis conversation with the ADAMHS Board and the local MRSS provider.
- Englund noted that she said it sounds like the group is asking for a letter from the MHRAC supporting care response.
- Heller requested that a discussion to address the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness and other underrepresented groups be added to a future agenda.

Next meeting:
Nov. 7, 2022, 9 am