

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on November 11th, 2020

[In attendance](#)

[Minutes](#)

[Review minutes from last meeting \(October 14th, 2020\)](#)

[Topics sent over email to cover over the next few meetings](#)

[Deep Dive on Crisis Intervention](#)

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In attendance

On Zoom meeting

- Committee
 1. Secretary Joel Chan
 2. Resident Bette Dickerson
 3. Resident Cynthia Totten
 4. Vice Chairperson Mariel Alper
 5. Resident Maggie Brunner
 6. Chairperson Patricia Page
- Council / Liason
 - Council Member Robert Croslin
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - Council Member Daniel Peabody
- Other
 - Adrienne Augustus (Mental Health Advocate HPD to talk about plans for crisis intervention)
 - Resident Jeanne Benas
 - Resident Brandon Fastman
 - Resident Chuck P

Minutes

Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:37 pm.

Review minutes from last meeting (October 14th, 2020)

- Resident Bette Dickerson motioned to accept
- Chairperson Patricia Page seconded
- No objections

Topics sent over email to cover over the next few meetings

- Deep Dive on Crisis Intervention - including an introduction to the new Mental Health Advocate HPD just hired
- Update on the Shand Officer-Involved Shooting (perhaps following the Department's administrative investigation's conclusion) and any potential administrative/policy changes being considered as a result
- Discussion on School Resources Officers, including selection process and any relevant specialized training
- Briefing on HPD law enforcement training - including Academy requirements and in-service
- Community/Relational Policing Initiatives and how to adapt them safely to the pandemic
- Relationship between HPD and PGCPD, such as any MOAs, joint training, shared resources, etc.

Deep Dive on Crisis Intervention

- Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee introduced Adrienne Augustus
 - Did nationwide search and found Adrienne Augustus to help lead the effort
 - Charge
 - Help with media relations
 - Develop mental health program

- Background in investigative journalism (nominated for an undercover report), and also graduated with Master's degree in journalism from UMD, and ran a nonprofit
- Adrienne Augustus spoke about herself and the mental health effort
 - More on her background
 - Also background in corporate communication and public relations
 - Working with NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness
 - Not a mental health practitioner, but a mental health **advocate**
 - Worked for them in Nevada, then at national office in Arlington
 - Also Master's in Public Administration
 - Started mental health foundation: A Beautiful Mind Foundation - work to help orgs develop culturally competent mental health programs
 - Still a full-time volunteer for the foundation
 - Media relations / mental health
 - Help people understand the police department, but also help develop capacity for serving mental health needs
 - What's going on
 - Still in exploratory stages
 - Possible model from Anne Arundel County, which is award-winning
 - Essentially officers who are well-trained in mental health support, but also paired with trained mental health professionals, and they go out together
 - Also other opportunities like getting community members as volunteers to go out and support community members, not necessarily hand in hand with officers, but provide mental health and emotional support for people in crisis
 - Currently rely on crisis response that serves the entire county, want something that is for Hyattsville
 - Response time is a challenge, goes with the problems of understaffing
 - Not 24/7, days start at 10a
 - Trying to get a sense of load: how many calls are we getting where a mental health professional could help facilitate?

- Starting to work on getting officers (starting next year) started with series of training programs and educational opportunities around mental health, while developing longer term capacity for full-time mental health professionals on staff
 - They are already responding to these calls, let's equip them!
 - But long term we want them to do law enforcement, not social work!
 - Get officers to opt in also for more in-depth mental health
 - Crisis Intervention Team Training (on hold rn bc of COVID)
 - Q: is this the program (associated with NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness)?
[https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Crisis-Intervention/Crisis-Intervention-Team-\(CIT\)-Programs](https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Crisis-Intervention/Crisis-Intervention-Team-(CIT)-Programs)
 - Possible to get this training at no cost to the department
 - Also mental wellness training for the officers' own wellness
 - Will continue work with A Beautiful Mind Foundation, but at reduced capacity

Q&A with Adrienne Augustus

- Resident Maggie Brunner
 - two-pronged approach with citizens and officers makes sense!
 - q about models / methods: how does that research project look, what's the timeline, etc.?
 - Adrienne Augustus:
 - initial focus on Anne Arundel County model bc they're in our state and very successful (but not necessarily expecting to replicate completely, just don't want to reinvent the wheel)
 - another popular program started in Oregon: CAHOOTS: seasoned mental health practitioner with EMT, their own vehicle, to be part of response

- Another program with strictly volunteers: come in after the crisis has ended to support people
 - mostly casting a wide net then trying to consider what is feasible bc there isn't a pot of money behind this (yet)
 - hopefully pitch something by end of the year
 - but the way that the data is set up hasn't allowed for them to check off a box about calls related to mental health crisis
 - just changed this
 - will also analyze officer notes on calls from January to present to help estimate
- Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - not a lot of infrastructure to place someone on drug/alcohol distress: hard to find beds for people who need help; and also no opportunity for follow-up after they get into the hospital
 - vs. CAHOOTS has dedicated facility standing by and their own vehicles to transport people
- Resident Bette Dickerson
 - how do you see your relationship with our committee?
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - not sure yet
 - but eager to look for opportunities to partner
- Resident Maggie Brunner
 - any appetite for other municipalities to collaborate (e.g., Riverdale)
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - would require a lot of "paperwork"
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - have MOUs, but this might be different bc it involves money
 - can approach them once we have a better sense of a draft plan, with numbers, ballpark price tag, etc.
 - there is appetite for collaboration
 - tough now bc revenues are short, but we still can figure out what we're asking for
- Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - officers have already been involved in ICAT, implicit bias training

- multi-million dollar CAD system
- Secretary Joel Chan
 - curious about "quick and dirty" from focus groups?
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - estimate from some conversations, about 50% of the convos
 - still not expecting perfect data from the checkbox until the officers have sufficient training
 - survey could work well!
 - previously was doing ridealongs
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - encourage committee members to also go on ridealongs
- Resident Maggie Brunner
 - also interesting to track to what extent the calls are related to the same individuals
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - will look at this in analysis
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - perception: some recurring individuals, but not the majority
- Secretary Joel Chan
 - put 50% estimate in context?
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - not a lot of numbers out there
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - CAHOOTS has estimates in report: a nontrivial percentage, maybe around 20%?
- Chairperson Patricia Page
 - considered hiring chaplains? would like to volunteer!
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - yes! they're in the working group right now!
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - frequent meetings with them
- Resident Maggie Brunner
 - Does city already have cadre of volunteers for various things like the chaplain thing?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee

- do have large group of volunteers that help with various projects, including community service, food distribution, etc.
 - not in police department
- Adrienne Augustus
 - Council Member Robert Croslin's wife is coordinating free mental health first aid training for citizens
 - one q: is there a way to ensure that citizens can actually go in prepared? if there is enough people who take this training, could help with this
- Resident Bette Dickerson
 - volunteer a lot, e.g., on board of aging in place
 - pandemic is disrupting some of this service provision
 - impact of pandemic on police officers?
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - disrupting ability to have training
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - working hard with PPE to keep up service, officers on street 24/7 still responding to calls, so far ok
 - only ones in the country with a decontamination station in first few months of pandemic
- Chairperson Patricia Page
 - saw something called Allison.com, possibly free certification in mental health
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - similar program at Johns Hopkins to get certificate: psychological first aid, for people with no mental health training, but equip to engage in a trauma / crisis situation
- Resident Maggie Brunner
 - pursue grants? like in Montgomery County
 - Adrienne Augustus
 - yes, started doing some digging already
 - Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee
 - all for grants, have a few running
 - possible new thing through MD office of crime control and prevention

- Chairperson Patricia Page
 - There's one with United Way interested in mental health

Closing / wrap-up

- Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee will work with Chairperson Patricia Page to pick topic(s) from list for next time
- Liason Deputy Chief Dunklee thanked everyone
- Chairperson Patricia Page motion to adjourn at 20:32 pm
 - Secretary Joel Chan seconded