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Community Policing Behavioral Health Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

Co-Chair Taberner called the meeting to order, determined a quorum, and a motion was made and passed to accept the meeting minutes from June.

Chair Taberner gave an update of where the 911 and Crisis Reports are in the review process. He stated that both reports are headed to EOPSS next for their review, and as of yesterday EOHHS had signed off. He mentioned that we are looking into filing an extension for both reports.

Danna Mauch presented a few slides speaking to the research conducted to produce the 911 & Crisis Reports. Over 80 stakeholder interviews have been conducted and much time has been expended to ensure their feedback was captured in the report. Danna asked if there were questions or comments from the group after she presented.

Chief Ferullo and Chief Martineau expressed concern that these recommendations not become an unfunded mandate. Departments are already in need of additional resources. Bob Ferullo suggested that he can certainly embed new curriculum for training, but it will take development and resources to do so. Funding is key. Danna agreed to embed wording to include their feedback.

Robert Ortiz referred to pages 11 and 21 in the Crisis Report with a request that a distinction be made between peer specialists and coaches. Danna thanked Robert for his feedback and agreed to edit the report to reflect the distinction. Robert also pointed to page 33 and requested that we add BIPOC communities.

Bob Ferullo suggested that a draft of the report should go to the MA Chiefs. Chief Baker agreed that should happen before a vote is taken by the Council, Chief Martineau agreed. He suggested

that sending it to the Executive Committee of MA Chiefs via Chief Mark Leahy would be a good route. It should also go to Jim Hicks, the Chair of MPTC.

Robert Ortiz mentioned we should have an additional peer counselor on the Council, Scott will follow up on that.

Chair Davis welcomed public comment, Eric Helmuth, Sen. Brownsberger's Chief of Staff shared that he has found the 911 draft report to be extremely helpful since he read it. He thanked everyone for their focus on this important work. Richard Sheola thanked the group for the opportunity to participate, he is very interested in this work Massachusetts and New York are doing.

Charles Smith suggested a cost benefit analysis be conducted of the study. That we should have associated costs so that there is an understanding of the potential financials. Scott Taberner agreed it was a good suggestion and Danna Mauch agreed stating the problem is the information is not readily available.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed unanimously at 12:07.