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Community Policing Behavioral Health Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Zoom

Co-Chairs Taberner and Davis called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., all members were present with the exception of Ruby Sanders, who was unable to attend due to work obligations. Introductions were made for two new members, Chief Ernest Martineau of Fitchburg Police Department, and Charles Smith of DPH. Dr. Jean Shahadadpuri, a member of the public introduced herself as well.

A review of meeting minutes was conducted, edits were accepted from members, and a motion was made by Matt Broderick to approve as amended. Motion was seconded by Chief Stevens to accept the minutes into the record as amended which passed unanimously.

Next Chair Taberner introduced the issue of amendments that were made in order to produce the studies according to the legislative language. He thanked Senator Brownsberger and his Chief of Staff, Eric Helmuth, for supporting and ensuring that the language in the legislation is now reflected as a July 1, 2023 deadline for the report. Chair Taberner shared that this now gives us a clear path forward. (See Attachment 1: Sections 167 and 178 of Chapter 268 of the Acts of 2022)

Chair Taberner introduced Matt Broderick to speak to the Council's request for more funding to support the studies. Matt said there is an estimate of funds needed, approximately \$380,000+. DMH is seeking to allocate funds via its grant program to MAMH for the study of the crisis response and continuity of care system. A motion will be made at the next meeting to determine the amount of funding that the Council requests be made available to pay for the the work being conducted by the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH) and its subcontractor, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC). Matt, invited anyone with questions to contact him.

Chair Davis took a moment to thank the Chiefs participating in the Council and the studies, as well as Chief Farnsworth and MPTC E.D. Bob Ferullo for their excellent collaborative spirit and support.

She shared that she along with Chief Farnsworth convened a meeting of a few Chiefs to help fill the gaps in identified areas. That meeting and the participation was excellent and much appreciated. Next Danna Mauch of MAMH and the team from TAC gave an update on the studies they are conducting. (See Attachment 2: powerpoint slides)

Laura Conrad of TAC shared that they have been busy gathering data, doing outreach and some themes have emerged in doing the work. She thanked Chair Davis/EOPSS for assistance. The themes Laura identified included that people support the work, the challenge is getting everyone on the same page/communication, and staffing. Next Amanda Tobey of TAC spoke to the data collection and announced they are very pleased to have engagement as of today from a police department in the Western Region. She shared a data sample on a slide to which the Council offered various comments and thoughts. The Chiefs agree a comments section is very important for responding officers to get a better sense of what type of situation they are responding to. Chief Ferullo emphasized the importance of the comments section, and that training is imperative on this issue. Chief Martineau reinforced what Bob Ferullo said on training and how important it is. Chiefs Baker and Stevens agreed and pointed to the way calls come in for service.

Next Danna Mauch spoke to the next steps and what action items are coming up. She wants to be sure the reports meet deadline and that the grant application process is in good order. Charles Smith asked if there was a tool used for site visits. Danna said there is a standard approach, and she would be happy to share the documents with the Council. She also noted that the survey that went out was an additional separate tool.

Chair Taberner shared that we would be meeting January 9, 2023, and an email will be forthcoming. He suggested that once these studies are finished, we would need to move on to other work. There will be an agenda item at the next meeting to begin thinking about how we can look at other opportunities to collaborate between MPTC/DMH possibly. We could begin to explore additional work to which Bob Ferullo restated his enthusiasm for the work and desire to continue collaborating. Director Ferullo announced that Sheila Gallagher has changed positions and is no longer at MPTC.

Charles Smith said he is delighted to be part of the Council.

Public comment was encouraged by Chair Davis, none was given.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn at 1:31 p.m..

Attachment 1

Chapter 268 of the Acts of 2022

SECTION 167. Subsection (d) of section 117 of chapter 253 of the acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking out the words "July 1, 2022" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- July 1, 2023.

SECTION 178. Said item 4000-0300 of said section 2 of said chapter 24, as amended by section 64 of chapter 102 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "December 31, 2022" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- July 1, 2023.