



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Mental Health
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Community Policing Behavioral Health Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Zoom

Co-Chair Taberner called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., and a quorum was declared.

Motion was made and passed to accept the January meeting minutes without edits.

Danna Mauch and the TAC Associates Team gave the Council an update on their work. First a brief overview of study considerations and data was given. The TAC Team is pleased with the engagement from PSAPs in all regions. Stakeholder interviews haven taken place and there are specific themes in that work that have been noted. Some of those themes include the need for communication, intentional engagement, and support to name a few. There are varied coding methods, protocols and metrics used. Further acknowledging the need for meaningful metrics.

Next steps include ongoing stakeholder interviews and site visits. The team asked the council if there were any questions relating to the update or additional stakeholders that might be missing from engagement. The work needs to be complete and submitted the end of June to the legislature. TAC will discuss the timeline and send it on to the council to ensure the milestones are mutually agreeable and remain on target. Scott and Angela thanked TAC for their work and suggested next order of business would be to decide upcoming meeting dates for the group.

The following dates were decided by the Council for upcoming meetings:

Mondays, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5th, all 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The Council suggested it would need draft copy of the Crisis Study by the end of May to allow for review by membership and Secretariats, with discussion and final vote by end of June. The 911 study is separate and would not need to come to the Council for comments, only the Crisis Study will come before the group for feedback and a vote.

Based on the Council discussion and suggested meeting dates, TAC will provide the Council with a suggested timeline on work product in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Taberner suggested at the March meeting we could have the Behavioral Health service providers share their work. The new Community Behavioral Health Centers or “CBHCs” are intended to serve as a front door for accessing behavioral health care, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. One of the goals of the CBHCs is to allow law enforcement to bring individuals more expeditiously to behavioral health treatment opportunities. Chair Taberner will look into asking them to present at the next meeting on March 13.

Public comment was invited, and a B.C. student asked a question regarding workforce.

Chairs noted that Charles Smith had sent along an article of interest to the council which was forwarded and may be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting is Monday March 13, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., an invite and agenda are forthcoming. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 1:30 p.m.