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**Meeting Minutes of the Virtual
Community Policing Behavioral Health Advisory Council
September 8, 2021
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Chair Taberner called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Seven Council Members were in attendance: Scott Taberner, Angela Davis, Mathew Broderick, Robert Ortiz, Chief Brian Kyes, Chief Lester Baker, and Tim Burton of NAMI Mass. Also attending were Catia Sharp of Commonwealth Medicine, and June Binney and Richard Sheola of Health and Justice Strategies. Introductions were made.

Mr. Broderick gave an update on the DMH Center for Police Training. He reviewed what has transpired over the past two years: a procurement was issued by DMH on January 24, 2020, with the deadline for submissions set for March 4, 2020. A provider was selected to operate the Center just as the COVID pandemic was emerging in 2020. Less than a year later DMH terminated the contract with the provider. DMH reissued a second procurement for the operation of the Center in the spring of 2021, to which two providers submitted responses. DMH did not award a contract. Mr. Broderick indicated that DMH is planning to review its procurement and is likely to issue it for a third time during FY 2022.

A discussion among Council members occurred in which the question of how the Council could possibly assist DMH with the procurement was raised. The primary way in which the Council could help was to raise awareness of the upcoming procurement. Chiefs Kyes and Baker indicated that they would alert their fellow chiefs at upcoming meetings of the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association and other gatherings.

Section 117 of Police Reform Act of 2020 was reviewed by the membership of the Council. (See attached.). Discussion among members of the Council took place concerning the directive for the Council to "study and make recommendations for creating a crisis response and continuity of care system". Mr. Burton stated that to undertake a project of this size and scale will require that a consultant be brought on to work in conjunction with the Council. Mr. Broderick made a motion that the Council seek funding for a procurement of a consultant consistent with the language in

Section 117(b). The motion was seconded by Mr. Burton. A call of the roll was made with all seven Council members in attendance voting yes.

Mr. Taberner asked if there were any comments from the public:

- Catia Sharp noted the work of the Middlesex County Restoration Center overlapped somewhat with the study the Council will be undertaking of the crisis response and continuity of care. She will provide materials developed for the Restoration Center initiative to the Council and/or the consultant it hires.
- June Binney agreed with the direction the Council had voted to take by hiring a consultant.
- Richard Sheola noted that the study represents a big challenge, one that will require cross system collaboration to achieve. He indicating that affiliating with an academic institution will be very helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.