

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Monday, September 14, 2020**  
**ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County**

**Meeting Conducted via ADAMHS Board Zoom Platform**

**Present: Co-Chairs: Scott Osiecki, ADAMHS Board and Captain James McPike, Cleveland Division of Police**

**Committee Members:** **Carole Ballard**, ADAMHS Board; **Gabriella Celeste**, Case Western Reserve University; **Dr. Rick Cirillo**, Board of Developmental Disabilities; **Curtis Couch**, ADAMHS Board; **Michael Evanovich**, Department of Justice; **Dr. Randy Dupont**, Cleveland Monitoring Team; **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, ADAMHS Board; **Yolanda Gordon**, Cleveland Municipal Court; **Vincent Holland**, Cuyahoga Community College; **Rania Issa**, City of Cleveland; **Shannon Jerse**, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center; **Christina Kalinicki**, Care Source; **Sgt. Bridgett Dorr-Guiser**, Cleveland Division of Police; **Larry Heller**, N.O.R.A. ;**Samantha Holmes**, Recovery Resources; **Rick Oliver**, Frontline Services; **Charles See**; Cleveland Monitoring Team; **Carolyn Szweda**, Beechbrook; **Rodney Thomas**, Case Western Reserve University; **Dr. Megan Testa**, Cleveland Police Commission; **Megan Rockford**, NAMI Greater Cleveland; **Ruth Simera**, NEOMED; **Rosie Palfy**, Community Advocate; **Christopher Viland**, Cleveland Inspector General, City of Cleveland; **Madison Greenspan**, ADAMHS Board and **Heather Tonsing-Volosin**, Department of Justice.

**Guests:** Hassan Aden, Cleveland Monitoring Team; Abby Smith; Rochena Crosby, Norma Herr Women's Shelter; Theresa Markowitz, Greater Cleveland Congregation; Arianna Wiln, Jessica Salley Riccardi, PhD Candidate, CWRU

Scott Osiecki opened the meeting at 9:01 am.

**Acknowledgements:**

Scott acknowledged the recent passing of two Cleveland Police officers, Detective, James Skernivitiz and Officer Nicholas Sabo. Scott also acknowledged the passing of MHRAC member, Kathleen Stoll. Ms. Stoll was an active member with MHRAC from its inception and always offered support and feedback to the group. The behavioral health community is also grieving the loss of Billie Osborne Fears, Director of Starting Point.

**Review of the MHRAC Meeting Summary:**

The MHRAC members reviewed the meeting summary from July 13, 2020. Rosie Palfy brought up items that needed to be reflected in the summary. The minutes were not approved due two missing names and noted omissions from the minutes. Minutes will be revised and submitted for approval. Scott asked Ms. Palfy if she would send her revisions to Carole Ballard so that her suggestions could be captured in the revised summary.

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

- **Community Engagement: DeJesus**

Coffee with a CIT Officer is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be a zoom meeting with an audience of MHRAC members, behavioral health representatives and members from the Police Chief's Association. This meeting is not open to the public. Scott and Captain McPike will facilitate the meeting. The audience will ask questions of the officers, which will be collected during registration. Agenda is in the process of being finalized.

Update on the CIT brochure. CDP submitted pictures for the brochure. Still time to submit revisions for the brochure. Brochures will be distributed at community events and meetings.

- **Diversion: Kalinicki**

Rick Oliver has agreed to be the co-chair for the Diversion Committee.

Rick provided an update on CIT PLUS. Project is averaging about 2 to 3 referrals per month. Two beds are always available to CDP and unit is never full. Unit continues to operate with 9 beds instead of 15 due to COVID 19. Project has indicated the return of clients to the CSU which may indicate that there is a reduction in calls to police. When clients return to the facility, they can not be counted towards the grant. Continued concern that the community may not be familiar with the CSU. Information about crisis emergency resources are pushed out on the internet via the Board website however the Diversion Committee would like to explore this area more.

Rick provided an update on the Co Responder Team. Frontline Services has hired 3 staff members and Murtis Taylor has recently hired two staff members. CDP has distributed a Divisional Notice to identify six officers for the project. Two officers have already signed up. Once fully staffed, the Project is scheduled to begin cross training during the first week of October. Project to be implemented in October. Team will operate second shift in all five districts. Goal is to reduce calls for high utilizers, conduct follow up to CIT calls and coordinate referrals in the community.

Diversion Center was discussed. Rosie Palfy expressed “lack of transparency” by the Board. Ms. Palfy noted it was mentioned in ADAMHS Board newsletters and at Board meetings, but not directly reported to the MHRAC. Members of the Diversion Committee stated there is confusion with information about the model, status of the RFP application, and whether the CDP had been involved in the development of the Diversion Model. Members stated that they did not understand the secrecy about the Diversion Center. This resource has been identified as a goal on the MHRAC work plan. Ms. Palfy stated that the City of Cleveland should terminate its MOU with the ADAMHS Board because she believes the Board can no longer be trusted.

McPike indicated that the Safety Director has been and will be involved with the discussions regarding the Diversion Center because it impacts all police in Cleveland. CDP does not support terminating its MOU with the ADAMHS Board and values its partnership.

Ms. Palfy indicated that all parties need to be around the table for this discussion. Reached out and brought a member from the Greater Cleveland Congregation to the group. Member indicated the need to hear from other stakeholders about this project. Suggestion made that the Diversion Center should be a standing agenda item for MHRAC meetings.

Scott indicated the following: Insulted by the comments being made about transparency – the Board has shared updates as they have been able including in the newsletter and at Board meetings. The Diversion Center is a county project, not an ADAMHS Board project. The County issued the first RFP and the Board responded with collaborative partners brought together by MetroHealth. St. Vincent Charity Hospital had to back out of the project, so the county re-issued a new RFP, and the Board

responded. Organizations submitting proposals should only share that they applied and not the details about the project. That is what the ADAMHS Board did. When the county decides who will be chosen to run the Diversion Center, the Board and the public will be notified of the decisions.

- **Training: McPike**

Continue to work towards implementing CIT training in October. All training in September is being compromised due to the Presidential Debate being held at the end of the month. CIT training is scheduled for the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be hybrid model of face to face with a virtual platform. Still addressing safety plan.

Autism training was moved to 2021. Police academy in the process of developing a safety plan for next year. Still in need of the lesson plan and evaluation for the Autism training.

CDP is in the process of developing an online training update on CIT PLUS, Co Responder Team, Brazos and the Emergency Certificate. No date for implementation. This will be a training issued for all the officers as a substitute for in service training.

Comment made about the need for training on Autism based upon the recent national story about a 13-year-old assaulted by police in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Special Presentation:** “Recognizing and Responding to Traumatized Youth”. This presentation was provided by Jessica Salley Riccardi, MS, CCC-SLP, PhD Candidate- Communication Sciences Policy Research Associate, Schubert Center for Child Studies, CWRU.

The power point slide presentation is attached to the meeting summary. This in-service training was held in 2019. About 1365 officers received this training which was delivered by a variety of children’s mental health providers. The training was developed by Lisa Thurau, Executive Director of Strategies for Youth as no cost to the City of Cleveland.

MHRAC members commented on how well the review of the training was conducted. Dr. Dupont mentioned that the review of the data was easy to understand and follow. He further indicated that behavior changes first and attitude later. Good outcome from the training along with recommendations for more specific youth training in the future.

- **Quality Improvement Committee-McPike/Issa**

QI committee has been meeting on a monthly basis. Rania has been providing a monthly update on data collected from the CIT stat sheets via Brazos and LERMS. All offices have been trained to enter the CIT stat sheets via Brazos however more monitoring and training is needed. Committee is continuing to define its metrics for data analysis. Committee discussed high utilization by two addresses. CDP indicated that one address has been identified as the “Mayor’s detail,” meaning that a detail is assigned to the mayor’s home, not that there are multiple responses to that address. The second address identified was a home for individuals living with developmental disabilities and there was team

coordination with CDP on these calls. Dr. Dupont indicated that the data coming from Brazos has been good. Great collaboration with all parties and thanked Dr. Cirillo for his assistance.

**Racism as a Public Health Crisis: DeJesus**

Several MHRAC members have indicated an interest in being part of the committee. Board has also identified other behavioral health partners. Meeting is being scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>. Charles See and Rochena Crosby indicated that they would like to join the committee. Materials and additional information will be sent out.

**Next Meeting:**

**Monday, November 9, 2020**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.**