

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**9:00 A.M. -10:30 A.M.**  
**ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County via Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Co Chairs: **Scott Osiecki**, ADAMHS Board; **Captain James McPike**, Cleveland Division of Police and **Commissioner Nicole Carlton**, Cleveland EMS.

**Committee Members:** **Carole Ballard**, ADAMHS Board; **Gabriella Celeste**, CWRU Schubert Center; **Dr. Rick Cirillo**, Board of Developmental Disabilities; **Curtis Couch**, ADAMHS Board; **Michael Evanovich**, Department of Justice; **Dr. Randy Dupont**, City of Cleveland Monitoring Committee; **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, ADAMHS Board; **Christina Kalnicki**, CareSource; **Yolanda Gordon**, Cleveland Municipal Court; **Larry Heller**, N.O.R.A.; **Vincent Holland**, Cuyahoga County Community College; **Rania Issa**, City of Cleveland; **Shannon Jerse**, St. Vincent Charity Hospital; **Karen Kearney**, MHAC; **Sgt. Bridgett Dorr Guiser**, Cleveland Division of Police; **Samantha Holmes**, Recovery Resources; **Rick Oliver**, Frontline Services; **Charles See**, City of Cleveland Monitoring Team; **Carolyn Szweda**, Beech brook; **Ruth Simera**, NEOMED; **Rodney Thomas**, CWRU; **Dr. Megan Testa**, Cleveland Police Commission; **Rosie Palfy**, Community Advocate; **Megan Rockford**, NAMI Greater Cleveland; **Madison Greenspan**, ADAMHS Board and **Heather Tonsing Volosin**, Department of Justice.

**Guests:** **Erika Losse**, ADAMHS Board; **Marsha Blanks**; **Sara Chuirazzi**; **Michelle Riske**, CWRU; **Joe Gaston**, Homeless Coalition; **Rev. Regis Bunch**, Amos Project; **Judith Banks**, Landmark Recovery Substance Abuse; **Rochena Crosby**, YWCA; **Brian Mallory**, Community Organizer.

**Meeting began at 9:05 A.M.**

**Review and Acceptance of Meeting Summary:**

Meeting summary for November 9, 2020 was accepted.

**MHRAC Meeting Organization and Process Discussion-Osiecki/McPike**

A discussion was had regarding organization and flow of MHRAC meetings to allow its members to address all agenda items and for participants and the public to be heard in an orderly manner. Tri-chairs and MHRAC sub-committee chairs met to discuss the issue. MHRAC members present agreed and stressed the need for more efficiency during the meetings. It was suggested that individuals could put their feedback in the chat for committee discussion to occur at the end of the meeting. Tri-Chairs are recommending that a time would be established at the end of the meeting to allow for questions and discussion on items not on the agenda.

Comment was made regarding the number of individuals representing the public and various groups coming and going to MHRAC and sub-committee meetings – which is encouraged – but raises the question of membership and how membership is determined. It was shared that the definition of membership to MHRAC as described in the consent decree consists of:

- City's Crisis Intervention Coordinator, representatives of the City's specialized Crisis Intervention Trained ("CIT") police officers, a City representative from its Department of Public Safety, and such other appropriate City employees as the City may select.

- The ADAMHS Board will select the other members of the Advisory Committee and shall seek representation from, but not limited to, the following: Cleveland Municipal Court's Mental Health Docket, the Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, the ADAMHS Board, Frontline Services, and other relevant Cuyahoga County mental health organizations such as advocacy organizations, homeless service providers, area hospitals, and interested community members.

Further discussion indicated membership throughout our sub-committees is quite diverse but there continues to be a need to maintain structure and order in meetings. Discussion regarding meeting activities of other committees like MHRAC across the country was shared and that these groups have established By-laws. Other suggestion made to have a more specific agenda to know what will be discussed in each meeting. Encouragement to let people make comments as they do in other public meetings.

Suggestion was made to develop an Ad Hoc committee to draft potential By-laws to establish how the MHRAC meetings will be held. Marsha Blanks and Rosie Palfy indicated that they would work with Captain McPike on this sub-committee. Committee members were encouraged to send ideas to Captain McPike by January 19<sup>th</sup>. Larry Heller as well as members from the DOJ and Monitoring team would like to be part of the discussion.

#### **Update on MHRAC Annual Report for 2020: Thomas/Ballard**

Rodney Thomas from CWRU is working in collaboration with the ADAMHS Board to draft the annual report. CWRU has been working with the Cleveland Division of Police regarding data collection and analysis via the Brazos electronic data collection system. As part of the monthly Quality Improvement Committee, Dr. Issa from Cleveland Division of Police has been presenting the CIT data being collected from officers during a mental health encounter. The data reflects a broad variety of data points such as number of encounters, nature of contact, disposition, characteristics of people in crisis and use of force.

#### **Update on the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center: Osiecki**

Scott reported that the ADAMHS Board was awarded a contract by the county to facilitate, coordinate and implement the services and support for a Diversion Center. The goal of the Diversion Center is to divert individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders who have committed a low-level offense from jail by diverting them to the Diversion Center. The ADAMHS Board will be contracting with Frontline Services and Oriana House. This is a two-year contract and Oriana will be a temporary site for the Diversion Center until further decisions are made by the county. A steering committee of members from Cleveland Division of Police, Oriana House, ADAMHS Board, Frontline Services, and representatives from the county meet to discuss, review and plan for the Diversion Center every other Thursday. The Diversion Center will serve adults and the source of referral at this time will be law enforcement officers.

When officers encounter a person with either a mental health and or substance use disorders, who may be subject to arrest, the officer can consider admission to the Diversion Center. The officer will contact Frontline Services who will be operating the Law Enforcement Hotline. The crisis staff will gather basic information from the officer to advise and/or recommend the appropriate diversion for the person. The options could be the following: divert to the local emergency room; divert to the Crisis Stabilization Unit and/or divert to the Diversion Center. If the officer has legal questions, the County Prosecutor's Office

will also be available 24/7. Frontline staff will transmit this information gathered from the officer directly to the Diversion Center to alleviate the need for the officer to repeat the same information.

The Diversion Center will provide assessment, referral, and linkage to behavioral health services in the community. The center will provide individual and group counseling, transportation, coordination, and collaboration with the community providers. The center will also provide detox services and supports. The length of stay at the facility will be from three up to nine days. The county is providing capital supports to the building currently.

As part of the contract with the Diversion Center, the ADAMHS Board will be providing a broad variety of CIT trainings to officers in the community. The ADAMHS Board will be providing eight-hour Refresher Training, eight-hour Dispatch Training as well as CIT 40-Hour Training twice a month. The ADAMHS Board is in the process of hiring three CIT Training Officers and an Administrative Assistant to fulfill these requirements. Law enforcement departments will be offered an incentive of \$150.00 per officer per day to participate in the training. This stipend is to help the departments cover the cost of having another officer cover the shift of the officer participating in the training.

Emphasis in the discussion on the Diversion Center as a starting point in our community. Goal is to divert people from jail and get them reconnected to treatment.

#### **Sub Committee Reports:**

##### **Quality Improvement Committee: McPike**

Committee continues to meet monthly to look at CIT data being collected via the Brazos electronic system. Data provides an opportunity to look at several issues in the community i.e., repeat callers and locations, dispositions, and potential training needs. Most crucial area to be determined is what data the committee is looking for and how the data will be used. Concern about the length of the report increasing with each meeting. Committee will continue to work to address these issues. Continued concerns regarding how to collect data on how long it takes for people in crisis to get an appointment and why it takes so long.

Captain McPike has sought feedback from the committee and others to identify potential areas of revision for the CIT Policies i.e., Definition, Response and Program. Continued edits are needed to the policies to keep the officers current with what is happening in the community.

Gabriella announced that Cleveland Division of Police now has a Youth Policy. This will be the first youth policy of its kind in Ohio.

##### **Diversion Committee: Kalnicki/Oliver**

CIT PLUS Project was reviewed and discussed. Continued limited referrals being made by Cleveland Division of Police. Average of about 2 to 3 referrals per month. Project staff have had challenges with follow up in the community once persons leave the facility. This is part of the grant requirement to ensure that people are linked to services.

Cleveland Co-Responder Team Project was reviewed and discussed. Five teams have been developed with a CIT officer and crisis specialist paired for each district. The team has completed their training, now has all their equipment i.e., car, bullet proof vests, etc. The team is responsible for follow up from

CIT calls within their districts. The team is made up of staff from Murtis Taylor and Frontline Services. They began their follow-up upon on referrals in January.

Update on Juvenile Court Project CALM. Purpose of the project is to provide services and support to youth involved in domestic violence cases. Project is experiencing a loss of agencies to accept youth referrals, but juvenile court is working to address these issues.

Christina announced that she is stepping down as the Chair for the Diversion Committee. She has assumed additional responsibilities at work and will not have the time to devote to the committee as Chair. She will continue to be part of MHRAC. Committee will be looking for a Chair. Rick Oliver is the co-chair for the committee.

Everyone expressed their appreciation to Christina for all of her work as committee Chair, and that they are happy that she is staying on as a member of MHRAC.

#### **Community Engagement-Kearney/DeJesus**

Committee will be meeting at the end of this meeting. Will be in discussion regarding creating more opportunities for Coffee with a CIT Cop and community forums. Committee will also be in discussion regarding community resource cards and the CIT brochure.

#### **Training-Jerse/McPike**

There are three CIT Specialized 40-Hour trainings scheduled specifically for CDP on the following dates: April 26<sup>th</sup>; July 19<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. Division notice will be disseminated to officers to sign up for the training.

Captain McPike has developed the content for the E-Learning system for the officers in place of in-service training for 2020. The training is being reviewed by the DOJ and Monitors.

No dates have been identified for the Autism 2021 in service training. This training will be face to face.

Training committee will meet to identify and discuss potential training topics for 2022.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.**