

**Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission
Mental Health and CIT Subcommittee
June 10, 2015, 7:30PM
Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center**

Meeting began at 7:35

Committee Members Present:

Del. Marcus Simon
Robert Cluck
Gary Ambrose
Ron Kidwell
Daria Akers
Claudette Pilger
Pete Earley
Darryl Washington
Michael Buckler

Members Absent:

Jim Diehl
Del. Vivian Watts

Others Present:

Clayton Medford
Andrea Tetreault
Gordon Dean
Ellen Simon
Michael Pendrak
Chris Cavaliere

Minutes

Mr. Earley moved approval, Mr. Ambrose seconded, passed unanimously.

Mr. Simon said the subcommittee is in the position to begin outlining what the recommendations will look like, particularly the categories of recommendations.

Mr. Simon asked for reactions to the previous meeting's presentations. He said there is agreement of a problem in the mental health/CIT arena (CSB, FCPD, FCSO). Most fixes are not controversial. There is a desire to embrace CIT and buy in from stakeholders to implement best practices. Task of subcommittee is to identify best practices and identify barriers (legal, financial, institutional) and how to overcome them.

Mr. Kidwell said FCSO moving to implement broader CIT (train-the-trainer). Goal at FCSO is 25% (Memphis Model).

Mr. Earley said he is encouraged and excited by positive responses to his column in the Post among county leaders. Supports FCSO going to Memphis Model. Learned that people and placement limits Mobile Crisis Unit. Mr. Earley stressed fixing mental health requires a systems approach – need cooperation from all stakeholders.

Mr. Cluck presented at FCPD CIT training class on Monday and sees total dedication at FCPD. Starting “CIT Light” at academy this month. Sees difference being made by Ad Hoc Commission.

Mr. Ambrose said subcommittee should take into account ongoing initiatives like assessment site grant in recommendations and leverage those. Should not inadvertently derail ongoing efforts.

Mr. Simon said goals should be realistic and attainable and agrees with Mr. Ambrose. Opportunity to direct ongoing efforts.

Ms. Akers said the funnel begins before law enforcement involvement – commitment hearings. FCPD training 100% is not the best course – training is not for everyone. Supports Memphis Model. Mr. Simon agreed.

Mr. Washington said all dispatchers are trained with specific 1-day course for dispatchers. Standard set by CIT International.

Ms. Cavaliere discussed her experience. Said basic principle of understanding how to approach someone in a state of distress is important, in reference to whether you need 100% training of officers. Worked at Laurie Mitchell Center, now works with CRISP or CRIP. Advocate on Temporary Detention Order TDO task force.

Mr. Washington discussed proposal to expand peer support to follow clients throughout whole process (TDO or EDO (commitment hearings), and beyond).

Mr. Earley – police shows up and determines whether person is a danger to himself or others; then go to psychiatrist to determine if they can be held for hearing; if yes, they go to Fairfax Hospital; judges show up at hospital (judge is a lawyer appointed to do this work); evaluator gives input to judge; attorney appointed to patient; judge makes call to commit or release. All this happens within 72 hours, by statute. 17 commitment hearings on June 8 in Fairfax County.

Mr. Washington said CSB staff can go out to hospital and pre-screen before they leave. But mobile units are limited and people get released because they can't get to the hospital in time. (1 mobile in Fairfax County)

Mr. Pendrak was impressed by previous meeting and concurred there is agreement on problem here. Supports idea of self-selecting CIT training but important 100% trained to know to call CIT when necessary.

Mr. Buckler is attending his first meeting. Mr. Simon said it is important the subcommittee's report is easily accessible so all questions regarding the subject are welcome. Mr. Buckler asked about staffing and whether CIT coverage on each shift is a priority.

The subcommittee discussed appropriate response, escalation, understanding someone in a state of distress, determining whether someone is in distress or intoxicated.

Mr. Washington said the sequential intercept model cross mapping process was created in 2011 and is updated now. By the next time the subcommittee meets, he can present the 2015 model.

Mr. Simon said he was encouraged by the recommendations in the 2011 document but disappointed they have not been acted on in 4 years.

Mr. Washington said CSB is trying to get mental health first aid training for first responders. One-day, introductory, evidence-based, can be large class, easier to train-the-trainer than CIT (40 hours).

Mr. Buckler asked about standards for CIT in other similar jurisdictions. Mr. Earley gave overview of Virginia standards and Fairfax County. Mr. Washington said Fairfax County meets Virginia standards.

Ms. Pilger described her personal experiences and said that even with training it can be difficult to understand how to deal with someone in a state of distress. She discussed Community of Solutions. She lamented the lack of funding in Fairfax County vs. neighboring jurisdictions. She discussed the merits of Stepping Up Initiative and particularly the potential availability of funding.

Mr. Simon said the recommendations need to consider cost.

Ms. Pilger asked about felonies. Mr. Dean discussed the funding structure of the Compensation Board – incentive for more felonies because they get more state funding.

Mr. Earley discussed difference between competence and helping someone with their mental illness.

Subcommittee discussed drop off centers and those staffing needs.

Mr. Earley the subcommittee needs to have something in its recommendations about drop off centers – should not assume Fairfax County will get the grant.

Mr. Simon called attention to the revised Scope of Work. Changes were recommended to incorporate mobile crisis units.

On the DOJ reports, Mr. Cluck and Mr. Buckler said the reports lack relevance to Fairfax County and the subcommittee. Mr. Buckler said many recommendations subcommittee could make will cost money. recommended acknowledging the issues in Fairfax are separate from those in cities reviewed by DOJ. Mr. Earley said program review, which is what many bullets in scope are, does not cost money.

Mr. Simon said some on other subcommittees may be able to draw recommendations from DOJ reports.

Mr. Simon said there are national CIT training standards and the question is whether the commitment is funded – good metric for level of commitment.

Ms. Pilger said push and pull over budget, schools will be challenge for funding mental health.

Mr. Earley asked if MCU and CSB had data that shows MCU is worth the cost of expansion – how many people were diverted and how many more could be and how much could that save? What about county’s jail diversion team? How much jail and court was avoided?

Mr. Washington said CSB has a jail diversion team (JDT). Challenge there is lack of capacity and ROI on identifying people to divert. Most JDT is doing discharge planning and working with people with criminal history that are in the community reducing recidivism. Best practice is prior diversion but can’t get referrals – cites lack of drop off center. Officers have easier time bringing them to ADC and getting them in front of magistrate.

Mr. Simon asked the best way to compare Fairfax County to neighboring jurisdictions.

Mr. Earley volunteered to reach out to neighboring jurisdictions to request statistics.

The subcommittee discussed the work of CIT International. Mr. Buckler asked the merits of comparing those standards to what the county is doing. Mr. Washington said current training is in compliance with CIT International now. He said that Arlington and Alexandria have been in compliance for years and that has gotten them access to grant money over years.

Mr. Ambrose said one recommendation could be if grant is unsuccessful, CSB/FCSO/CSB needs to go forward with drop off assessment site.

Mr. Earley asked the cost of running a CIT training course. Mr. Washington said most trainers are volunteers, but cost comes in time investment from staff receiving the training.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31

Minutes prepared by Clayton Medford

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