



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

MEETING MINUTES
VALLEY AREA COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL
Thursday, October 26, 2017
6:00 PM
ALBUQUERQUE POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING CENTER
5412 2ND NW
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

In Attendance:

- Rowan Wymark
- Edwina Kiro
- Lava Sheets
- Lt David Rogers
- Sgt. Nicolas Sanders, APD
- Detective Matt Tinny, APD Crisis Intervention Team
- Yvette Marentes, CPC Admin

Approximately 24 members of the public were in attendance.

6:00pm

Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6 PM

Determination of a Quorum – A quorum of 3 out of 3 was met at the start of the meeting

Approve Agenda – A motion was made to approve agenda, it was seconded and approved.

Approve September 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve minutes, it was seconded and approved.

6:10-7:10

Detective Matthew Tinney, APD Crisis Intervention Unit.

Detective Matt Tinney went over a PowerPoint presentation discussing the Crisis Intervention Team (See attached PowerPoint presentation)

BSS (Behavioral Sciences Section) deals with officer well-being. CIU (Crisis Intervention Unit) involves detectives and the C.O.A.S.T (Crisis Outreach and Support Team.) Per capita we have the largest crisis intervention unit in the country we are the only sworn unit directed by an unsworn director.

What does FSB stand for?

Field services bureau, not sure exactly how many officers are in the field. But all officers assigned to the FSB must be certified in CIT. Meaning every officer that is in the field has been through the 40 hour CIT course.

The 40 hour CIT course that is offered by APD and is free to take if anyone is interested. In our state it is a 40 hour minimum training requirement for all officers and it is about to change to a 48 hour course.

A big push for CIT is jail diversion, our jail sees more mental health people than anywhere in the state.

It is very common in New Mexico for officers outside of APD to be CIT certified as well but not common for the agency to have a CIT program. There are a ton of officers in the state however, that have had this training.

When you call 911, you can ask for a CIT officer. Right now there is a big push for this nationally due to law enforcement engaging people in mental crisis and it becomes a bad situation.

How is a CIT officer distinguished in the field?

All officers in the field are CIT certified. They also have a pin that they wear that shows they are certified in CIT. The downside to everyone getting it is there is no specialization; that is why the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (eCIT) was created as they require additional training. They will also have a badge that they can put on their uniform. Legislation was passed here to make the training mandatory, now any peace officer in the state has to get the 40 training course.

MHRAC (Mental Health Response Advisory Committee's) goal to provide direct feedback to the department. They meet monthly and the meetings are open to the public and consists of a panel combined of several mental illness professionals.

Can you breakdown the training and what it entails?

The state curriculum is being rewritten, this is more of a building block on top of the regular trainings that officers receive in the academy. After they graduate from the academy they have to come back for the CIT course. The course consists of; case law, de-escalation skills, listening skills, etc. There are also scenarios where actual actors come in to portray someone with mental illness accurately so that officers can practice. All scenarios are based on actual calls taken by APD.

What happened between the 1996 time and the time that the police force expanded?

A lot has changed, the concept of dealing with people with mental illness is new. It is hard to figure it out and make in standardized. How do we increase training in APD to reduce amount of SWAT and time spent dealing with calls and people with mental illness. There were high profile shootings that happened that involved mental illness the department realized that something needed to be done and wanted to make a change. We have been forward thinking in this concept for a long time.

What is happening, where do you take these people?

There is a lot of help and resources available for these people. The problem is that they cannot be forced to get the help, a lot of them are just refusing. There have been laws or ordinances that have been pushed into the city that have been voted out. There are no avenues for individuals that do not realize the situation they are in due to their mental illness.

CIU (Crisis Intervention Unit)

There is an online case management system so that any officer that goes into the management system can have all info that is needed. That way they know what they are working with prior to working with someone in mental crisis.

Certificate for evaluation – in this state a provider can write an order for law enforcement to take someone to the hospital for evaluation.

Mobile Crisis Teams - there will be 4 teams that will drive around in marked vehicles. St. Martins will have the contract to go around with the officers, they should be starting soon. This will be a great thing for our community.

C.O.A.S.T (Crisis Outreach and Support Team)

Up until Monday has historically been non law enforcement. Their goal is nonviolent case management and follow up. A big push for them now is working with the homeless.

All major resources for behavioral health are located here in Bernalillo but we are all unfunded. C.O.A.S.T is constantly looking for other resources and other organizations that can help with funding for people in need.

C.O.A.S.T. now will actually be put in the main sub-stations all around the city. Because of the increase of calls that link to behavioral health, they are looking to assign two officers to the C.O.A.S.T. program. This is a new approach that has not been done yet. It is an implement that comes directly from the community. If you want to try and make a difference or have suggestions, attend the MHRAC meetings, they are every 3rd Tuesday, 5-7pm at The Rock at Noon Day.

The psychiatric emergency room hospital at UNM has on 6 beds. Other hospitals do not have many beds dedicated to psychiatric emergencies.

With county tax they are holding money that is set aside to deal with mental health. They are looking into resources and programs now to implement. They are also looking at possibly building a crisis center. The only thing that can make this move faster is expressing your voice. So far, only 3 agencies have tried to become part of the Mobile Crisis Team.

Rowan Wymark – are there any specific recommendations that we as a CPC can make?

Anything that the group can come up with whether it is a new program, policy, training and/or any other programs that they may not know about.

If you would like to join the CIT course you can email Detective Matt Tinney: mtinney@capq.gov; 505-924-6000

Does C.O.A.S.T. being at substations include smaller sub-stations?

It will just be at the main substations not the satellite stations. There will be 6 coast assigned and will go to the 6 area command substations. Officers heavily rely on these people to try and find resources.

What happens on the weekend if the CIT unit is only working M-F?

They are actually looking at changing this due to crisis happening on the weekends. Detectives do follow up so they are linked to work with providers and

most providers are only open for services during normal business hours. You can still get an officer at any time and detectives are on call so they will come out if needed.

Regarding the Settlement agreement do you have numbers on how any of the abuses have decreased (police on homeless)?

You can look at the data that Dr. Winograd has collected on the MHRAC website:

<https://www.cabq.gov/mental-health-response-advisory-committee/documents/albuquerque-police-department-crisis-intervention-unit-data-book-sept-15.pdf>

The data discusses any use of force and how it correlates with those with mental illness or the homeless. It would be nice if we can see if there is any data on how this relates to officers. They are also going to look into tracking the complaints on officers and the turn out on these.

What changes has APD that have been done to protect the homeless?

Biggest change that has happened is that training for officers is now including input from the public and people that work with the homeless. They now do outreach on a weekly basis as well and are trying to expand the outreach. The department is now pushing better sources for officers as well. The biggest thing has been the push for the CIT unit.

Does APD consider itself to be a trauma informed department?

APD does have trauma informed presenters and is constantly reviewing curriculum through panels. All documents are living documents and can always be updated or amended.

In terms of left property, if there is property that has been left behind. The City will try and get the property to its owners but there are stipulations of what can be kept in possession.

One of the attendees of the meeting was homeless at one point and is the beneficiary of a housing voucher. She thinks that there needs to be a better connection between the resources. Being homeless can be a very scary situation for people. You get the housing voucher but it is on you to get the housing and negotiate the rent. There is no central list of where these people can find the housing.

7:10-8:00

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Next Meeting: November 16th, 2017 (please note: the meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month because of Thanksgiving being on the 23rd)

Presenter: District Attorney Raoul Torrez.

There will be no meeting in December, the next meeting will be on January 25th, 2018.