

Policing Advisory Commission
MH and ER Committee meeting
March 2, 2021

In attendance:
Jenn Lynn (chair)
Shabab Mirza
Vernon Ricks

Ms. Lynn reported on plans in place for increasing quick response and wrap around services to residents with Mental Health & I/DD, ASD crises.

Long term action: the county is formulating plans for a Restoration/Diversion Center to be located down county, near current Seven Locks facility. This facility will house recliners for short-term stays, as well as beds for longer stabilization processes. It will be staffed with nurse practitioners, doctors (on call), Mental health clinicians, behavior experts and social workers/therapists. Ms. Lynn is working to ensure that professionals to meet the stabilization needs of those with I/DD and ASD are also on staff.

This would also include peer therapists, social workers, community connection service aids, and family navigators.

Mr. Ricks suggested enlisting the help of local NAMI professionals as partners.

Short term action: while working through plans and securing funding for the Restoration/Diversion Center other progress is being made.

Crisis Center has added 1-2 mobile crisis teams. Crisis Center is still looking to hire 3 (of 6) more mobile crisis/response therapists. They are in need of bilingual applicants.

They are working on a tiered approach to call response. Calls are determined to be in Tier 1, 2, 3 upon reception. Police assistance is tiered as well. So, police can be available/called for the "more serious calls" and "on standby" for the calls who pose no threat of violence or aggression. Jenn is working on gathering more detailed information of how those tiers break down.

Ms. Mirza voiced concern about how the residents are going to access this Crisis Response given that our 911 system is firm and unable to be changed.

We discussed possibly a "short cut" dial to the crisis center...

Ms. Mirza mentioned that when residents are in crisis and they have the choice to call police or not... many would choose "not" to call for help.

MCPD is also working to train more officers to be specifically CIT responders. They would have extra training, more than the officers get in the academy, and would want to work with this population and take these calls. Ideally, they would work hand-in-hand with the Crisis Center teams and be staffed 24/7.

Mr. Ricks voiced concern about the importance of a quick response in times of MH Crisis... Ms. Lynn mentioned it would be great if we could have pairs of MH responders stationed in each district... on the ready so drive times could be shortened.

We discussed hearing from some community groups who have had experience with CAHOOTS, as well a local community advocates for the populations involved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45pm

Our next committee meeting is April 6.