

**Police Reform: Community Engagement Working Group**  
**August 6, 2020, 7:00PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chairs: Commissioner Chris Shaw & Shannon Isom

Facilitator: Janet Mueller, Dayton Mediation Center

Attendees: Andrea Oladi, David Greer, Dormetria Thompson, Shelley Dickstein, Robin Williams, Major Brian Johns, Byron Branch, Gwen Buchanan, David Lawrence, Dion Sampson, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Henderson, Erica Fields, Erin Ritter, Helen Jones-Kelley, Amaha Sellasie, Jordan Lewis, Jo'el Jones, Scott Sliver, Serida Lowery, Shawn Kerley, Will Smith, Youseff Elzein, Amy Mitchell, Alana Brookshire

On Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 7:00PM, the Police Reform: Community Engagement Working Group met in regular session, remotely through electronic means, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

**Greeting & Announcements**

Ms. Isom opened the meeting with a general greeting and recap of the group's mission and purpose. Commissioner Shaw thanked group members for their time and commented on the meeting's planned agenda.

**Discussion**

- Ms. Mueller invited group members to share their responses to the group's first assignment.
- Lt. Col. Eric Henderson commented on the department's youth-based initiatives. He feels that these initiatives are working well, especially Police And Youth Together (PAYT). He highlighted non-enforcement programming at the Wesley Center and the Dakota Center.
- Maj. Brian Johns added that PAYT brings youth to the training academy to see how officers are trained.
- Ms. Brookshire suggested adding programming that takes into account the perspective of community members, as opposed to only from the police's perspective.
- A conversation commenced about a potential reverse-ride along program. Commissioner Shaw answered questions about implementation, mentioning that working group recommendations could be brought to the City Commission as soon as the group makes a formal recommendation.
- Mr. Elzein recommended a similar program to what Welcome Dayton offers recently-settled immigrant families.

- Ms. Mueller directed group members to the Zoom group chat for additional discussion.
- Ms. Williams stated it's important to remember that there are different target audiences for different pieces of community engagement. We need to make sure we're targeting the people that will benefit the most.
- Ms. Ritter discussed the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon.
- Ms. Jones-Kelly spoke about Montgomery County ADAMHS Board's program currently being designed. It would be county-wide and feature a "no wrong door approach" to providing resources to those in mental health crises. The program would be similar to CAHOOTS and free up officer time handling caseloads.
- Officer Branch voiced his support for a robust mental health program
- Ms. Ritter and Ms. Jones-Kelly briefly discussed the logistics of regional dispatch implementing a county-wide program to respond to mental health crises. The Crisis Now program in Arizona was also discussed.
- Officer Branch envisions an officer-mediated program for dealing with mental health crises because officers are most familiar in the community.
- Mr. Elzein commented that the Dayton Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team is his least liked program. He believes it must be eliminated as a responsibility of the police because they are not the mental health experts in our community.
- Ms. Oladi agreed that the police cannot "do it all." She added that jail is the worst place for people experiencing mental health crises.
- Mr. Lawrence agreed that we need additional resources and collaboration.
- Ms. Buchanan echoed that a mental health focus is very necessary. She also highlighted the need to "plan with" versus "plan for" the community.
- Mr. Kerley mentioned that these conversations need to be put into the community for feedback
- Mr. Greer added that grant dollars should not dictate the length nor direction of any new initiatives
- Mr. Sliver echoed that a mental health provider partnership is absolutely critical
- Ms. Williams posed the question of how to eliminate distrust of the police department within the community
- Commissioner Shaw reiterated the recommendation process
- Mr. Lewis gave a brief overview of the Working Group Charter for revision

### **Closing**

- Ms. Mueller provided "next steps": continue looking through the Working Group Charter for revisions
- Ms. Isom recommended choosing a time and day of the week for bi-weekly scheduling purposes

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:40PM.