

City of Richmond - Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
Meeting held via Zoom: https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=38

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020, 5:30 PM

**video recording available*

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - AGENDA REVIEW

Meeting called to order by Johann Fragd at 5:34 PM.

PRESENT: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Killian-Lobos, A. Lee, J. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, T. Pulido, D. Small, B. Therriault, D. Tucker, T. Walker, L. Whitmore

ABSENT: D. Joseph, S. Leslie, J. Schlemmer, A. Soto, N. Syon

II. MEETING PROCEDURES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marisol Cantú appreciated the Round Table discussion held last week and encouraged Taskforce members to hear public comments as they move forward. In addition, Cantú encourages youth participants to speak their minds, especially some of the younger people that may have been overshadowed at times. She also suggests that the Task Force make the Community Conversations longer than one and half hours, to avoid disruptions for members that would like to speak.
 - a. Whitmore asked for clarification on what “disruptions” meant in Cantú’s public comment--she was present at the meeting and will be facilitating the March Round Table discussion.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

1. Johann Fragd provided a staff report. A request was made for a co-facilitator for the February 18 Round Table due to a Task Force member’s scheduling conflict. Pulido volunteered to co-facilitate the February 18 Round Table.
2. Fragd explaining future meeting scheduling and noted meeting minutes will be presented at second meetings of the month. Subgroups will also report out on the second meetings of the month, which are considered the working meetings. Staff has created a Google Drive folder with subfolders that all Taskforce members can add their subgroup documents and will share out the link tomorrow. Fragd instructed that if subgroups have staff requests, they are to send it to staff in separate documents so that staff can keep track of requests and follow up after.
3. Fragd followed up with the request to elect Co-Chairs for the Taskforce. She asked Taskforce members to look for the poll in the next couple of days via email.
4. Fragd encouraged Task Force members to visit the City website to view previous presentations, video recordings, meeting minutes, and other Task Force-related materials and documents.
 - a. Joseph asked if previous Presenter slide presentations are also uploaded on the City website and further inquired if any follow-up questions and/or answers are included or if they are considered a supplement document. Fragd responded that Presenter Powerpoint presentations are uploaded and any discussion during the meeting is captured in the video recording. She further clarified that unaddressed questions/comments are collated by staff and sent out for further input

- b. Gosney comments that he records the videos for people who want to download them and they are available via Google Drive and Youtube. Task Force members can reach out to him to be included in the emails when he sends out the links.
 - c. Therriault thanked staff for the work being done on the Task Force and clarified to Joseph that the slide presentations from Presenters are available for download on the website similar to City Council meetings. Joseph thanked Therriault.
5. Richmond Police Captain Simmons provided a staff report. Simmons thanked Killian-Lobos and Small for facilitating the previous Round Table discussion. He provided an update on the work that Police Chief French is doing with multiple Mental Health service providers to leverage existing services and deploy resources better. He further mentioned that they are looking at grants and other funding sources to address the need for mental health and awareness apart from police response.

V. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

1. [Presentation by Contra Costa Health Services](#) - Suzanne Tavano, Fatima Matalzol, James Lancaster
 - a. Member Comment
 - Njissang asked if it is required for law enforcement to be involved in mobile crisis calls? Lancaster explained protocols for mobile crisis calls that determine whether law enforcement presence is necessary. He explained that law enforcement will often go out on civil standby and are usually first on the scene. The mobile crisis team will assess the situation along with law enforcement based on safety for all involved. Njissang inquired further if law enforcement will likely always be present. Lancaster said yes due to safety concerns. Tavano followed up that youth services are usually not followed up with law enforcement. Lande clarified further that they do assess to see if law enforcement is needed. Lancaster explained that a health clinician is present for a crisis and law enforcement can assess their safety as well and will step back if needed
 - Joseph asked what the total budget was for mental health. Tavano responded that in 2021 it was \$175 million. Joseph asked if there are cases in which the police contact the mental crisis health teams for services. Tavano replied yes. Joseph asked how much time they usually spend in Richmond. Tavano said that the data is broken down by regions and cities but does not have it on hand or by hours. That data is not included in the presentation. Joseph asked to receive that data. Lancaster said Natalie has that data but is not sorted by time and usually by city. Tavano said it depends on how complex the situation is and can usually last several hours. Lancaster mentioned that sometimes calls last three hours because safety was a concern and further evaluation is needed. If it is a quick call, the person is in a manic state and there is a need to stabilize. If it takes longer, they need further assistance on mental health.
 - Small asked if there are any harm reduction and overdose prevention services, such as any needle exchanges, crack kits, stimulant users, condoms and entry ways for treatment for hard-to-reach populations. She asked further on mental health services and if staff is culturally competent based on community listening sessions feedback. She further asked if services are available to children, youth, and families and how much funding does the City of Richmond have for these services. Matalzol replied that they often receive federal funding funneled through the state which has strings attached, such as no harm reduction services; however, they do offer some harm reduction services that are allowed such as

medication-assisted treatment and distributing Narcan sprays. For the opioid epidemic, they have a plan for substance abuse and harm reduction services. They target homeless shelters for these treatments, and most services discharge patients with Narcan spray. The needle The advisory board for Alcohol and Drugs advocate for the needle exchange programs but they cannot have it through public health. Sex worker health support occurs through Public Health. Tavano noted that cities subsidize CORE Team services but no cities in the County contribute to mobile teams. Small stated that these issues continue to prevail due to institutional racism and that resources are often delegated to affluent communities instead of low-income communities of color.

- Therriault asked how they employ MCRT into West County. He asked what it would take to integrate the responder model with MCRT with the West County model and also asked what it is going to take to reach 24-hour dispatch. Tavano said having one integrated point-of-access line has been identified a priority. They have four priorities total for improvement and this is one of them. Lande said that one issue in dispatch is organizational coordination with communications infrastructure. Even if dispatch is notified, they do not have time to refer people to mental health services such as MCRT. Lancaster concurred and has experienced these issues and continues to seek better solutions. Every City in Contra Costa County has its own disadvantage and cannot have a one size fits all model. MCRT is law enforcement referral only. The MCRT and MEHT team can assess each situation for further follow up and best approach. They are more like mental health investigators that address the issue and make everyone safe. They investigate their models and see if they need to expand it, change it or collaborate with other agencies and or mental health staff . The services ideally need to be under one entity to effectively work. Tavano stated that MEHT is its own independent model. Lande clarified that responses in Richmond has Police come out to all crises but does not operate like MEHT. Tavano stated that they will be looking into advancing that program more. Lancaster stated they are providing police officers with more up-to-date CIT mental health training.
- L. Chacon asked about what services the City subsidizes and if there is a list of services available. Tavano clarified that MEHT officers are funded through AB109 funding. MEHT clinicians were previously funded with a grant that ran out of funds. Fragd noted that funds subsidized by the City is the CORE program. L. Chacon asked about funding needed for 24/7 dispatch within the City of Richmond. Tavano stated it would be expensive and would include 21 shifts throughout the week, the County does not provide this currently due to the expense. Lande commented that having region-wide focus rather than City-wide focus allows them to follow clients across jurisdictions.
- Pulido asked if the County can create a list of recommendations of services that could be funded. Lancaster said having a Round Table discussion with the Task Force members would be beneficial. Tavano agreed with Lancaster and highlighted an example from working in Marin County. Lancaster stated they had a list of service gaps from County services. Tavano stated the County has a goal to provide these services to every County resident. Matalso added that stigma reduction for substance abuse and mental health will help expand these services instead of criminal programs.

Motion made and approved to extend the meeting by thirty minutes with Taskforce consensus.

- Killian-Lobos highlighted her own work and experience with mental health. She noted that Richmond community members would be more present at County meetings to receive this information. Tavano stated that there are two representatives from the Mental Health Commission that can assist. She added that Consolidated Planning Advisory Work (CPAW) is another group that can provide support as well. Lancaster is part of the MHSA group and can provide that information.
- b. Public Comment
 - Carole Yu-Johnson asked what percentage of calls that do not necessarily need police involvement but just want them to standby. Tavano asked for further clarification and will look into it more. Lancaster and Lande stated it is based on each individual basis. Lancaster added that the MHET started as a pilot team and would like to see RPD further pilot more programs. Tavano added that they hope to work more with Michelle on this work.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Killian-Lobos asked Contra Costa Health Services if they can provide a list of meetings that would be helpful for the Task Force to attend? Tavano followed up with additional information and email lists to include and send to staff. Matalosol will also send additional information.
2. Small wanted to know if people feel there may be some changes in direction with respect to substance abuse and mental health services under the new administration. Tavano responded that they work most closely with state administration. Matalosol said the federal administration is in agreement on hard reduction and youth services. She likes the sobering center model because patients arrive who want to get sober. They will continue advocacy towards that.

VII. ACTION ITEM RECAP & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Follow up with Marisol Cantu regarding recommendations for improving Round Table discussions.
2. Follow up with Carole Yu-Johnson regarding the percentage of calls that do not require law enforcement involvement but request civil standby.
3. Obtain and send copies of value-stream mapping for the entire county as well as service maps for all regions.
4. Work jointly to create a list of shared recommendations.
5. Obtain information from the public health side.
6. Obtain list of meetings that would be helpful for the task force to attend and disseminate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Therriault to extend by 30 minutes; seconded by Small; and consensus by Task Force.

IX. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Regular Meeting - Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Community Round Table Conversation Series - Homelessness - Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.