

Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards

Thursday, February 28, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Taskforce Members In-Person

Annmarie Arensberg
Yusef Presley
Jazmine Rogers
Lamont Anderson
Taben Azad
Monique Garcia
Steve House
Debbie Kennedy
Holly Osborne
Valerie Leon
Tracey Mason, Sr.
Naquela Pack
Poncho Bustos
Dr. Rhonda Lewis
Pastor Kirkendal
Nina Shaw-Woody
Marquetta Atkins

Taskforce Members via Zoom

Mike Fonkert
Lilliana Rivera
Yeni Telles

Resource Members

- Kristin Peterman – Via Zoom
- Hope Cooper –
- Steven Stonehouse
- Lemuel Moore
- Shantel Westbrook

Welcome/Introductions

- We are going to hear from Emergency Communications and WPD
- There will be a discussion of the documents that have been handed out so far

Department of Justice Letter

- Garcia had a comment about the penultimate paragraph
 - She wanted to modify the word *develop*
- House informed the task force that the next step was to mail it

Review of material

- Pack had a question about the DCCCA letter
 - They were not interviewed for the DA report
 - She wanted to make sure the task force members were aware of this
 - CPA and foster parents cannot authorize mental/medical health interventions

- She wanted to discuss this further and Peterman provided additional clarification

Presentations:

Lem Moore, Interim Chief of Police, Interim Deputy Chief Paul Duff, Lieutenant Bob Reichenberger, Lieutenant Tom Fatkin, Sergeant James Hook, Officer Rebecca Jabara, Officer Manny Thompson

- Wanted to contribute to the task force
- Are open to change/improvement
- We should never lose sight of why we are here
- Officers must respond

Elora Forshee, Director of Emergency Communications

- 911 is the number people go to do when all else fails
- Three options for 911 to send – fire, EMS, police
- There is a movement to have embedded mental health professionals in 911

Questions from Taskforce Members

- How many calls does 911 receive related to mental health crisis?
 - Typically between 4,000 and 4,500 annually
- Pack wanted to know about total calls
 - 550,000 calls a year total
- Lewis wanted to know more about best practices in other cities
 - Colorado Springs is a good counterpart to Wichita
- Osborne asked if the desire to place social workers at 911 was a short-term goal
 - Forshee felt it was a short-term goal
 - Discussed need for workforce solutions given high need and turnover
- Rogers asked about co-responder models—is there any interest in the Austin model that did not have a police response
 - Deputy Chief Duff answered that there was no desire to do that because of potential threats of violence
- Shaw-Woody wanted to make a recommendation that the social workers be trained to be cultural responsive to the cultures found in Sedgwick County
- Mason wanted to address cultural competence and use of grassroots groups being part of solution. There is a gap between officers/social workers and the community.
 - Lem Moore agreed that this was a start. However, when grass roots groups are granted access to people’s lives there are ordinances that need to be in place.

- Atkins asked about ICT-1 and the need for police officer responses with ICT-1. Are there records of how often police are needed in these calls.
 - Deputy Chief Duff said that data is collected
- Fonkert wanted to know if WPD was willing to work with a response force that did not include PD
 - Deputy Chief answered absolutely
- Telles wanted to know is there anything else that can be done to ensure that it is not only LEO who respond to mental health calls
 - Community Support Specialists have been hired
- Pack asked if there is there an option for WPD to reach out to COMCARE on their own to address this issue and about de-escalation training.
 - Thompson stated that officers in academy now all receive de-escalation training and shared information about ongoing CIT training options.
 - Interim Chief said that officers can directly reach out to COMCARE.
- Azad noted that ICT-1 was not a deployable force. Would Forshee like to see that policy changed? Does 911 or ICT-1 need more funding? How much does WPD contribute to ICT-1 funding?
 - Forshee answered that they would like to ICT-1 become a deployable force
 - Forshee answered that they will need funding to address these issues
 - Interim Chief answered that the officer's salary that is paid yearly to go to the position.
- Anderson wanted to know about WPD policy changes regarding mental health crises since the death of Icarus Randolph in 2015?
 - Deputy Chief gave descriptions of some policy changes related to de-escalation policies, training, teams implemented since 2016.
 - Deputy Chief Duff noted that specifically there is a focus to slow these calls down.
 - Lieutenant Reichenberger noted that there are efforts to change how suicidal calls are handled. If there are no hostages we try to reduce risk by using CIT negotiators. If this doesn't work we will leave the scene if they are not a harm to society. We try not to escalate these calls.
- Rogers wanted to know about screening calls.
 - There are criterion and experience is used to classify calls. Some are clear (self-harm, etc.)

- Rogers wanted to know if WPD is on scene and they identify behaviors that are clearly mental health in nature—why do they not just call for EMS?
 - We have to be able to articulate a reasonable belief that they are a danger to themselves/others before EMS is called
- Atkins spoke of her personal experience. The culture of the systems matter. Black and brown kids are aged and treated differently in these systems. She wanted to give respect to the WPD. But, she has seen the training that they received. The PowerPoint had a picture of Michael Browne and the 12 year old girl that was tackled. The narrative was that not everything you see in the media is true. This impacts the culture of WPD. It implies that the stories of children of color are not believed. The presenter said that, “if Mike Brown had gotten out of the street he might not be dead.” Her young-cousin has recently died by accidentally shooting himself. There was one officer that was unnecessarily rude. There is a disconnect between what is supposed to happen and what does happen. She wants to get past PR and get to the real issues.
 - Interim Chief extended an invitation to sit-down with him to address these concerns
- Mason wanted to look at the elephant in the room. Disconnect is a word that has been flying around this task force. This is the core of the issue. What is being done to connect WPD with grass roots organizations?
 - There is nothing setup at the moment.
- Shaw-Woody noted that there is a culture issue. There is a lot of talk about training. What is the turnover rate?
 - Forshee noted that it was tremendously high.
- Osborne was curious about the voluntary CIT training. What percentage of supervisors have CIT training? If there is a disagreement between the officer the CIT supervisor—what happens?
 - 20-25% of officers are trained in CIT. WPD is not at that level at the moment.
 - Interim Deputy Chief Duff answered that he supervisor on the scene are the ultimate decision maker.
- Kennedy wanted to know if there are debriefings after incidents.
 - Interim Deputy Chief Duff answered that there are debriefings after major incidents.
- Pack wanted to know what would it take to require supervisors to receive CIT training?
 - Interim Chief Duff—we could look at ensuring all supervisors receive CIT training.

- Rogers wanted to know why are mics muted when reports are being written?
 - Officer Jabara mentioned that the cameras are turned off because they might have personal conversations.
 - Interim Chief Duff noted that they will provide the policy to the Task Force

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7th at 4:30 pm

- Discussion Taskforce Process Schedule and Flow

Next Meeting Agenda Brief:

- **Please come prepared with questions**
- **We will have answers to the questions asked this meeting**