



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

August 11, 2022 Meeting Summary

The Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board (Collaborative) is a multidisciplinary group consisting of a diverse group of Ohioans including law enforcement, community members, elected officials, academia and the faith-based community. The Collaborative was created by executive order 2015-04k on April 29, 2015, after the Governor's Task Force on Community Police Relations completed its work and produced a report with recommendations on how to improve the important relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The Collaborative is chaired by Assistant Director Karen Huey, Department of Public Safety. Members appointed by the Governor DeWine, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Commissioner Lori Barreras— Chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- The Honorable Michael Bell – Former Mayor of Toledo
- Representative Juanita Brent – Ohio Representative
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn—Cleveland State University, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- Dr. Robin S. Engel—University of Cincinnati, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of IACP/UC Center of Police Research and Policy
- Officer Anthony L. Johnson—Columbus Police Department and member, Fraternal Order of Police
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer— Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Reverend Walter S. Moss— Pastor and CIRV Project Director, Stark County Prosecutor's Office
- The Honorable Melissa Schiffel—Delaware County Prosecutor
- Chief Justin Páez—Dublin Police Department and member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Sheriff Rob Streck – Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association

Ex officio members:

- Representative Phil Plummer – Ohio Representative
- The Honorable Tom Roberts—former Ohio Senator and President, Ohio Conference of Units of NAACP
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes— former member of Congress
- The late Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. Senator, Governor of Ohio, and Mayor of Cleveland
- Senator Sandra Williams – Ohio Senator

The purpose of the Collaborative is to advise and work with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) at the Ohio Department of Public Safety to implement the Task Force's recommendations, as identified in the Executive Order.

August 11, 2022 Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Ohio Collaborative meeting was held on August 11th in the Atrium of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The following members attended:

- Assistant Director Karen Huey, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- The Honorable Michael Bell, former mayor of Toledo
- Representative Juanita Brent, Ohio Representative
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn, Cleveland State University (attended virtually)
- Dr. Robin Engel, University of Cincinnati (attended virtually)
- Officer Anthony Johnson, Columbus Police Department (meeting presenter)
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Reverend Walter Moss, Pastor
- Chief Justin Páez, Dublin Police Department
- The Honorable Tom Roberts, former Ohio Senator (attended virtually)
- Sheriff Rob Streck, Montgomery County
- Meeting presenter: Captain Eric Morgan, North Olmsted Police Department
- Meeting presenter: Executive Director Kimberly Carter, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Geauga County

The meeting started at 10:05 A.M.

Assistant Director Karen Huey opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and welcomed all attendees. Today's discussion will continue discussion on law enforcement response in situations where there are mental health calls present. Law enforcement spends a lot of time with these calls and we want to continue to improve outcome and interactions for folks in crisis who need mental health assistance. Today's presentations focus on the community's perspective and lived experience on crisis response.

A Law Enforcement Officer's View of Crisis Intervention Training Presentation by Captain Morgan, North Olmsted Police Department

Captain Morgan shared his experience in attending and leading a culture of CIT response within his agency and community. He attended a 40-hour class and feels that it's the most important training that he's ever attended. Department has about 80% of officers that are CIT trained – and any newly hired staff that come in are required to participate in a class. It was highlighted that this response needs to be a philosophy and engrained in the culture of the agency and not limited to a specific division. Captain Morgan shared examples of how the training and presence of CIT benefits the calls he response to and the relationships he's been able to build as a result.

With training – mental health incidents are down, use of force incidents are down given that officers have more skills to help deescalate situations. The advance classes have made a huge impact in their community and would love to see this everywhere else. There are agencies that are unaware of the CIT model and training and still rely on sending individuals in crisis either to the hospital or putting them in jail.

Recommendations and Challenges were discussed:

- Recommendations:
 - o Although difficult, the 40-hour class is best. Captain Morgan explained that it provides opportunity for officers to role play and practice tough situations in class, hear from family members of people with lived experience and those who live with mental illness, and provides an opportunity for officers to have a different lens of people who are in crisis and the services they need. He provided a reminder that the training benefitted not just his work and response to calls, but also the way he engages the community. Also, recommended that standards for training would be introduced as early as recruitment.
 - Assistant Director Huey noted that DPS has created an abbreviated training for patrol that is 16 hours in length.
 - Dr. Robin Engel discussed the 40-hour curriculum model and training that was added to incorporate not just mental health crisis response, but responding when individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are involved. She also noted the importance of building tools and resources for smaller agencies who may not be able to dedicate 40 hours to training or when teams are not practical given the number of officers within an agency.
 - o Partners to engage include the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards as well as mental health providers in the area
- Challenges:
 - o 40-hour training, while comprehensive, is difficult to achieve for all officers given the coverage needed within an agency and funding available.
 - o It's difficult to find classes with the capacity to train all those that need training;
 - o Funding for classes and to pay for overtime
- Senator Dale Martin posed a question on the availability of strategies in place for officers to cope and ensure their wellness, recognizing that officers are in turn impacted by the trauma and encounters they respond to. Assistant Director Huey shared that the Collaborative has adopted a wellness standard for agencies, and a new division at OCJS that focuses on first responder wellness given that the trauma that LEAs see every day impacts their own mental health.

A Parent's View of Crisis Intervention Training Presentation by Executive Director Kimberly Carter, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Geauga County

Ms. Carter's presentation opened with a news story on her experiences and NAMI of Geauga County. Ms. Carter comes as a mother and a professional with lived experience and shared her experience as a family member of someone with mental illness who was engaged by law enforcement officers with and without CIT trainings. Ms. Carter was also previously the executive director of an agency who works with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and shared experiences of outcomes of individuals with officers.

Ms. Carter was asked about the barriers to duplicating CIT and she discussed the lack of uniformity in response, resources, trainings. This was discussed again later by Collaborative members as a challenge to consider when developing a statewide standard.

Dr. Engel emphasized the importance as this presentation highlights of having people with lived experience as part of the training, noting that it elevates the impact and connects the content to the outcomes that law enforcement officers have in their interactions. Dr. Engel also discussed the importance of tools and information sharing in order to break down silos for improved service coordination. Tools such as Sequential Intercept Mapping can help break down those silos so when a call occurs, the resources are easily found and people received the referrals that are needed.

Community Engagement Presentation by Officer Anthony Johnson, Columbus Police Department

Officer Johnson briefly shared about his life experience in Columbus, Ohio prior to becoming a police officer and his encounter with an officer who ultimately became a mentor and guided him toward a career in law enforcement. Officer Johnson works diligently with communities to bridge the gap between LE officers and community members. He wants to highlight that it took one positive police interaction to change the course of his life forever, and that pouring into the community being served is critical to community engagement and relationship building.

Dr. Engel wants to continue the conversation with Officer Johnson to move beyond the use of community engagement and community trust as buzz words. Dr. Engel mentioned that how officers are trained at the onset is crucial in developing community engagement skills, and the needs of departments to make this happen should be addressed. Given its importance, both Dr. Engel and Representative Brent question how to move these efforts beyond Officer Johnson and into the culture of agencies. Officer Johnson emphasized the need for leadership to trust the officers, to trust their people, with the opportunities to go out and have a positive impact rather than being plagued by the “what if’s” of a bad outcome. Consistency and continued engagement beyond introductions are also key.

New Business

Assistant Director Huey asked the group to discuss the desire to move forward with a standard on CIT. Dr. Dunn, who shared and reflected on the death of Tanisha Anderson – a woman in mental crisis who died in police custody – supports the Collaborative directive to create a standard for CIT at the state level. Sheriff Streck agreed that we should move forward with a standard and continued discussion on challenges that will be faced as its developed. Challenges for consideration include the 40-hour course and class size limits. Considerations should be made for overtime issues that will present, the availability of classes and where training resources will be made available, as well as the overall resources available in the community when response is needed. Even with a standard in place, communities may not have the infrastructure to serve individuals beyond the options of jail time or a hospital bed. These comments highlight that the standard will not only impact law enforcement, but other community and mental health providers as well.

Lastly, there was discussion on the hope for another standard. BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer proposed discussion on creating a standard on evidentiary management, and would like that to include firearms management and rape kit management. He provided examples of backlogged sexual assault evidence kits that have been tested and the perpetrator found however the statute of limitations has passed. Perpetrators are not being pursued in part due to the mismanagement and timeliness of testing.

This, in addition to the little knowledge on NIBN and firearms testing, has highlighted the great need for a standard on evidentiary management.

Assistant Director Huey provided closing remarks. The meeting was adjourned as 12:09 PM.