



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

February 23, 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.

February 23, 2022 Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Ohio Collaborative meeting was held on February 23rd in the Atrium of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The following members attended:

- Assistant Director Karen Huey, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Commissioner Lori Barreras, Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- The Honorable Michael Bell, former mayor of Toledo
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn, Cleveland State University
- Officer Anthony Johnson, Columbus Police Department
- Executive Director Karhlton Moore, Office of Criminal Justice Services
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Reverend Walter Moss (Attended virtually)
- Chief Justin Paez, Dublin Police Department
- Prosecutor Melissa Schiffel, Delaware County Prosecutor's Office
- Sandra Williams, Ohio Senate
- Meeting Presenter: Sheriff George Maier, Stark County Sheriff's Office
- Meeting Presenter: Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Delaware Police Department
- Meeting Presenter: Angie Lucas, FIRST Service Coordinator [works in collaboration with the Delaware Police and Fire Department]

The meeting began at 10:07 A.M.

Opening remarks

Assistant Director (AD) Huey welcomed all members of the Collaborative and introduced the newest member of the Collaborative, Delaware County prosecutor Michelle Schiffel.

AD Huey provided DPS updates. She first noted that after the meeting there will be a reception for ED Moore, who is leaving OCJS to be the director of the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. AD Huey then talked about the ARPA funding that DPS received. Governor DeWine dedicated a great deal of funding to support criminal justice initiatives. Ryan Gies is the Director of Special Projects and is overseeing the ARPA grant programs.

Juvenile standard discussion

Executive Director (ED) Moore then moved into the discussion of the law enforcement-juvenile interaction standard. He pointed out things to consider when discussing the standard. First, he reminded the Board that a standard is what agencies are required to adopt if they want to be certified. Requirements of the standard are only the bulleted items. The commentary is not required, but rather provides things for an agency to consider.

ED Moore pointed out that this standard was difficult to develop, as evidenced by the fact we've been discussing it off and on for some time. We need to consider whether we work toward developing a standard or a model policy.

We received some feedback and recommendations from Dr. Dunn and Sheriff Streck that needs to be considered.

Terminology

- Dr. Dunn discussed his substantive recommendations. He worked with Dr. Celeste and Charmin Leon [who both presented at the May 21, 2021 Collaborative Meeting]. First, he pointed out the importance of the language that is used. “Juvenile” has a negative connotation bringing to mind “delinquent”. Prefer the use of “youth”. Second, it is important to include a reference to what is meant by “age-appropriate” responses, which involves a general understanding of the various behavioral aspects of youth. Youth of color are often perceived as being older than they really are, and thus more culpable.
- Chief Páez agreed about the importance of using the correct terminology and defining the terms that are used in the standard.

Data collection

- Commissioner Barreras asked about the data collection component of the standard, and whether data besides arrests should be collected. A discussion ensued regarding what, if any, other data should be collected. Some pointed out the value of collecting information on positive interactions with youth. Others noted that most daily interactions are not officially recorded, and this would be particularly difficult to do.
- Questions arose as to whether agencies already collect the data that the standard requires. We do not want agencies to incur costs to implement a standard. It was pointed out by Prosecutor Schiffel and others that typical arrest data would include basic charge and demographic information, and is likely to be collected by agencies.
- Youth who are diverted from the criminal justice system is another example of data that could be collected.
- The idea was brought up to move some data elements, other than arrest data, to the commentary section and not make them a required element of the standard. The board was divided on this idea, with some noting the importance of capturing data, particularly when there are disparities.

AD Huey reminded the board that the purpose of the standard is to introduce the concept that youth are not simply “mini adults”, and as such, law enforcement need to understand this and to interact with them in a way that is different than how they interact with adults.

ED Moore brought up the option of convening a small group to discuss the purpose of this standard and to flesh out the details, assuming they want to move forward with development of a standard. The point was brought up that the board has been discussing this standard for quite some time and that finalizing a standard is time-sensitive.

The board took a vote to determine whether to move forward on the standard as is or to convene a working group. There were enough members who had concerns about the standard as it is written that the chair decided to convene the working group, with the understanding that their findings would be due April 1 to allow time for board members to consider by the May Collaborative meeting.

ED Moore reminded the group that they have passed 10 standards, and that they have had disagreement and discussion with every one of them. None are perfect.

Presentation by Stark County Sheriff George Maier

Sheriff Maier talked about the impact of the standards on his agency. He complemented the Board for providing law enforcement with best practices. When the Collaborative first formed over 7 years ago, he wondered how it would move forward, particularly with a profession who don't typically like to be told what to do. But he recognized the need of the work in bringing about consistency in policies and procedures. The Sheriff used his role as a board member of the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association to discuss with them the importance of certification. The value of the Collaborative is that it brings about good research-based policies that allow law enforcement to look and be more professional. And just as importantly, the development of standards builds trust and legitimacy with the community.

Pastor Moss thanked Sheriff Maier for his support of the Collaborative and for the work he does for Stark County and for the State.

Presentation by Delaware Police Chief Bruce Pijanowski

Chief Pijanowski discussed with the Collaborative his city's efforts on forming law enforcement and behavioral health partnerships. A handout was provided.

Chief Pijanowski talked about the development of the CIT Task Force to respond to a growing number of encounters with people in crisis. The CIT Task Force involves police, the developmental disabilities board, the mental health board, jobs and family services, courts, counseling services and other service agencies in the community. The Task Force would meet to discuss individuals with whom they were having frequent encounters, and they would form teams around these chronic individuals to wrap services around them. This process has evolved over the years. The Chief discussed their department's work with researchers on a data collection project to create an early warning system as a means to share data between law enforcement and mental health, with a goal of faster mental health responses to those in crisis. This data sharing effort continues today and has been rolled out to other agencies in the county. The department currently works with NEOMED's Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence on data sharing efforts.

The police department has moved into the realm of opioid/addiction response and are currently working on their version of the Angel Initiative, in which individuals can come into the department under amnesty to get into treatment. This involved working with prosecutors. The biggest difficulty with the program is the lack of bed space and treatment space. They are also working with the local mental health board to hire a social worker to coordinate services for those who come through CIT/RES. Angie Lucas, the department's service coordinator, was introduced to the Board. Ms. Lucas described her daily activities working with clients.

Chief Pijanowski highlighted that they have saved lives and made an impact with these initiatives. He has shared their efforts with other area agencies and at the IACP conference. He has worked with the Criminal Justice CCOE on creating a model that other communities can use. Several board members complimented the chief and his staff on these multidisciplinary initiatives.

AD Huey thanked Chief Pijanowski for sharing his agency's efforts with others.

Final remarks

AD Huey thanked ED Moore for all he has done to develop the Collaborative.

ED Moore was asked to say some words to the group. He thanked Governor Kasich for developing the Collaborative and Governor DeWine for continuing the Collaborative. He noted that the Collaborative is a great example of how people with diverse viewpoints can be focused on specific goals to get valuable work done.

The Collaborative will meet again in May. Please share topic ideas for future meetings, as we encourage hearing more community voices.

The meeting ended at 11:35 A.M.