



Police Accountability Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 2, 2023
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Mary C. Bliss, Robert Canning (Chair), Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (Vice-Chair), Dillan Horton, Don Sherman, John Myers, Logan Legg, Elizabeth Griswold (Alternate)

Members Absent: John Myers, Logan Legg

Also Present: Gloria Partida, Darren Pytel, Kelly Stachowicz

Chair Canning called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Escamilla-Greenwald moved, with a second by Horton, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Sherman, Griswold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Myers, Legg

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons

No announcements

4. Public Comment

Carol Gavin – Recommends increased bicycle patrol when weather allows.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Commission Minutes September 11, 2023

Escamilla-Greenwald moved, with a second by Horton, to approve the minutes.

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Sherman, Griswold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Myers, Legg

6. Police Auditor Update

Stephen Connolly of OIR Group updated the Commission on the Hiring Audit. Connolly met with Deputy Chief Henry in July. Hiring/recruiting is an important topic in law enforcement nationwide. Learning about hiring situation in Davis. What is missing is perspective of Commissioners. Hoping to meet/talk with the Subcommittee soon.

A. Current Caseload Update

There are no current cases.

No public comment

7. Regular Items

A. Discussion with Police Chief Darren Pytel – Mental Health Issues in Law Enforcement

Chief Darren Pytel presented on mental health issues in law enforcement. Shared standard mental health response for calls that come in for different types of situations. Fire, police and ambulance respond, and if acute medical care is needed, then individual taken to the hospital. Starting to receive more calls through 988. Get referrals through schools, clinicians or hospitals themselves (Tarasoff warning).

Currently budgeted for two contract clinicians but have vacancies. Clinician position is difficult for County to retain. If co-responder working then will respond with officers.

High threshold to determine that person is 5150 (mental disorder, danger to self, danger to others, gravely disabled). Have to differentiate between someone who refuses to take care of themselves but does not otherwise have a mental disorder. Someone who is gravely disabled is often assisted by a social worker/clinician rather than law enforcement.

Training – Both formal training via POST/POST certified (people with disabilities, de-escalation, use of force, bias training, crisis intervention training). Dispatchers and non-sworn employees also go through some of this training, including crisis intervention training. Training updates are required as well. Training now integrates with multiple learning domains. Academy is foundational, then officers learn on-the-job as well. Comprehensive policies and procedures guide the work and behavior.

Crisis Now –

- State law changing but requires Yolo County to have initial activity by January 1, 2024. Clinicians and co-responders will move into mobile crisis role. Once people are out of acute medical needs, people placed on hold represents a much smaller number.*
- Not certain if hotlines will be Yolo County only or have other counties.*
- Receiving Center intended to stabilize people over 24 hours and connect person with services, so no need for a longer-term hold.*

Mental Health for Emergency Service Providers –

- Typical Problems - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Clinical Stress Disorder, Moral Injury, Associated physical health issues*
- Typical Services – Employee Assistance Program (both regular and critical), Wellness (physical fitness, mindfulness, etc), Peer Support, TAGS (Trauma and Grief Services)*

Commissioner Questions:

- *Do teams go out without police? (Clinicians will review calls. They may determine when they want officers to accompany them. In most cases, clinicians will request law enforcement assistance.)*
- *When officers respond, does having an officer escalate or de-escalate? (Depends on situation.)*
- *Who are clinicians? (Have to be licensed or going through social work licensure program.)*
- *What type of training do officers receive to be able to make determination regarding 5150 designation? (Training in Academy and at Department, along with extensive policy for officers)*
- *If something happens in Davis, are there opportunities to debrief and learn? (Depends on the situation. Post-incident debrief as needed.)*
- *In original Crisis Now presentation, PAC concerned about metrics. (County still working on the metrics.)*
- *How will DPD be working with UC Davis? (UCD has its own programs for mental health care on campus)*
- *How would an incident like the Christopher Gray incident be different if it happened now? (Most people are not forced into getting mental health treatment and question as to when government can/should intervene.)*
- *How determine 5150 if not an official diagnosis? (Officers determine there is probable cause that someone is not able to care for themselves.)*
- *Is Crisis Intervention Training Update the first update? (Yes. This is the first time everyone has come back to learn about changes.)*
- *Is co-responder model affecting recruitment? (New recruits are likely to embrace the co-responder model.)*
- *Explanation of co-responder model on website would be helpful.*
- *Interest by some commissioners to participate in training. (Pytel will need to check with County to see what they are allowing.)*
- *What are services to employees related to moral injury? (This is a new area and DPD will be learning more about it.)*
- *What career development opportunities are available? (Some tuition reimbursement, incentive pays for advanced education, promotional opportunities tied to educational levels, opportunities for officers to teach, there is a significant amount of training available)*

Public Comment:

Carol Gavin: shared information about Your Way Registry program in Stockton. (City has and uses the form. Would be a good thing to promote.)

B. Public Outreach Meeting Discussion

- *Commission will hold meeting on Wednesday evening, November 8, 6:30pm, about property crime.*

- *Escamilla-Greenwald and Bliss reviewed plans for the meeting. Would like to hold this meeting in lieu of November meeting. Consensus of Commission.*
- *Commission discussed that this topic was one they felt would be helpful to the community.*
- *Subcommittee recommendation is to have people at each table discuss property crimes and ideas to improve the situation.*
- *Commissioners will contact groups with electronic or paper flyer.*

Canning moved, with a second by Sherman, to extend meeting until 9pm.

AYES: Canning, Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Sherman, Griswold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Myers, Legg

ABSTAIN: Bliss

Canning will introduce the meeting and the Commissioners

Public Comment:

Anne-Marie Soika: concerned there is no opportunity to ask questions during the presentation(s). Feels this is very restrictive and too one-way.

Discussion about questions during the presentations. Cards for written questions will be at each table. Need to be intentional with instructions.

8. Subcommittee and Liaison Assignment Updates

- A. Subcommittee on Challenges in Police Hiring Audit – (Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Myers) – Stephen Connolly would like to connect with Subcommittee and asked that Subcommittee reach out.*
- B. Subcommittee on Local Voices Outreach (Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Legg) - No specific update*

No public comments

9. Long Range Calendar: Upcoming Meeting Dates and/or Potential Agenda Items

November – Public Outreach Meeting at Veterans Center

December – Different location

January - January meeting will be on January 8 at Senior Center

10. Adjournment

Escamilla-Greenwald moved, with second by Horton, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm