



Board

Absent Janet E. Jackson, Chair
Present Brooke Burns, Vice Chair
Present Gambit Aragon
Present Mark Fluharty
Absent Dr. Chenelle Jones
Present Willard McIntosh, Jr.
Present Pastor Richard Nathan
Present Kyle Strickland
Present Rev. Charles Tatum
Resigned Aaron Thomas
Present Mary Younger

Guests

Present Jacqueline Hendricks
Present Richard Blunt
Absent Tiara Ross
Present Bethany Dickess
Present Nate Simon
Present Scott Hurler
Present Robert Tobias
Present Marian Stuckey & Kerith Palletti

WELCOME

At 2:01 Vice Chair Burns welcomed the Columbus Civilian Police Review Board (“CPRB”) to the meeting. Chair Jackson & Chenelle Jones had excused absences. Announcement made that Aaron Thomas submitted his resignation to Chair Jackson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING-

Pastor Rich Nathan moved to approve the July meeting minutes, and Rev. Charles Tatum seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

CPH & CPD COLLABORATION RE: RIGHT RESPONSE UNIT (RRU) & MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE (MCR) UNIT-

Overview given of neighborhood social services: Neighborhood Social Work Team, Right Response Mobile Crisis Response & Community Teams, VOICE, Violent Crime Review Group, Linden Anti-Violence Team, and Columbus Care Coalition.

Recently hours were expanded to do full 8 hour shifts and looking to get 2nd shift. Right Response Unit (RRU) includes 911 dispatcher & social worker/clinician. Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) includes Division of Fire Paramedic, Crisis





Intervention Trained Police Officer, and Clinician that specializes in mental health or substance use disorder.

How RRU works-caller contacts 911 or 4545, dispatcher determines if situation involves mental health and/or substance abuse crisis, dispatcher obtains permission to connect to RRU, clinician conducts an assessment, attempts to stabilize & de-escalate situation, and if needed clinicians work with 911 to dispatch appropriate personnel to the scene.

MCR is partnership between Columbus Division of Police & Columbus Public Health. Program pairs CIT officers with mental health clinicians to provide assistance throughout the City of Columbus & its suburbs. Comprised of 5 co-responder units, coverage 7 days a week 10AM-12AM. New teams were live in cars July 2022.

2021 total calls 3535 & 1710 transports to higher levels of care

2022 total calls 2120 & 605 transports so far this year

Co-responder model allows for clinician to be present on scene of crisis; special uniforms to appear more accepting & less intimidating; provide compassionate, trauma-informed approach because MCR meets people on their worst days, not their best.

Brooke Burns – do officers in unit also wear different uniforms and it was confirmed they do.

Mark Fluharty – are there any plans for expanding beyond the 5 units? Yes, we want to expand and to build more staff. Mental health field is a bit of a challenge for staffing.

Rev Tatum - what kind of response MCR has received from CPD? Have not heard any negative feedback, good responses from what has been said.





Mark Fluharty - how they will measure if 2022 was successful? An annual evaluation will be completed to review the year's success. Mark asked if the board could be provided with a copy of the evaluation.

Kyle Strickland - are there conversations between RRU & MCR, what do you have as an alternative if there isn't personnel for a response? Different research or evaluation on the different types of responses? Adding the community response teams. Looking at having clinician & a peer to take care of the follow up things once things have calmed down. Crisis Intervention Training was just completed, heard what other cities were doing. A lot of research has been done building up to this point.

Willard McIntosh - what does success look like to you all? Would like to be able to respond to more phone calls to help more people in need. The testimonials we receive are very rewarding. Don't need to hear follow ups on all the people we have helped but it would be nice.

Mary Younger - if there is a call that comes in for someone with a knife or a gun can the officer say they don't want MCR to go along? They don't want to be responsible for MCR if something happens. The officer is already responsible for us and we have all been through training. We will be told to stand back until the scene is safe before we engage with the individual.

Rev Tatum - about the Linden Violence Team listed on earlier slide in presentation, the whole city is bad, why Linden area in particular? Follow principles of people, places, and behavior for anti-violence work. Sometimes there can be concentrations of violence. We are doing a lot of piloting. We started with Linden. Our One Block at a Time Initiative is underway so we can continue to build.





INSPECTOR GENERAL STATUS REPORT-

Introduction of Administrative Staff –Bethany Dickess, Executive Assistant to the CPRB was introduced. Prior experience as Administrative Associate 4 with The Ohio State University before coming on board August 1, 2022.

Departmental Updates-

Inspector Hendricks reviewed February-March-April: Several things took place: Hired Deputy IG, 1st quarterly budget, ordering equipment for staff, interviews, and individual writing assignments. May-did first podcast “the future of policing in Columbus”, hired investigators, Saunders PR group, temporary office space. June- we were ready to be operational, began installation of Matrix Investigator software, staff training (ABC’s of policing, ride alongs, 4th amendment search and seizure). Took a little longer to hire executive assistants. July 11 went live, hired Executive Assistant for DIG, and held interviews for Executive Assistant for CPRB, and started receiving complaints. August-Deputy IG became a Certified Inspector General, Executive Assistant hired, CPD & DIG MOU’s were finalized (gave access to some of the CPD records). Still some databases that we don’t have access to but will be meeting with CPD monthly to discuss. Have attended a couple of community events. Additional training by Dr. Chenelle Jones on Implicit Bias and we have done a few tours with ECC, CPD public records.

Inspector Hendricks reviewed July stats-in July we started receiving the complaints. Staff triage all calls and everyone gets a response. 88 complaints received, 58 were closed (maybe because not enough info, not police misconduct). We do contact complainants to gather more info and let them know status.

Pastor Nathan - what’s an example of a complaint that would not be a DIG complaint? Inspector Hendricks-we get calls from citizens asking for police





reports. We account for everything we get because we spend time on every call. 58 closed would include those kinds of things.

Pastor Nathan-if initial complaint doesn't meet threshold or doesn't provide enough info, do you inquire for more info? Does investigator call complainant back with additional questions? Example-a person involved in hit & skip, officer came but didn't take a report. We'd call them to ask for maybe date/time of accident, badge #, and any other info. Another example, person called because they were pulled over/issued a ticket and they didn't like the officer's demeanor. Ended up being a State Trooper, not CPD.

Kyle Strickland-is it possible in the future to be able to break down complaints vs non-complaint calls? See 30 complaints opened, 58 closed. How many of those are just answering how to get police report vs not enough evidence to open a case. Inspector Hendricks-we do log some as informational only and some logged as investigations. It would be clearer if the board could see the breakdown of the closed complaints.

Mark Fluharty-excessive force and misconduct-would be great to know what they were so we can look at patterns. Would like to see those reports monthly. Inspector Hendricks-there are no closed investigations currently, 30 are under review.

Brooke Burns-none of the open investigations have been completed? Correct-there are no closed investigations.

Mark Fluharty-would like to see the complaints each month. Inspector Hendricks – we do have 90 days but will give updates on what cases are open and what might be closed. We are working on the timeline for the board to review cases.

Rev Tatum-we only need info on the closed investigations.

Kyle Strickland-individualized complaints? Are the 30 separate instances? Yes, they are separate cases. We do have one case that has 2 complaints.





Pastor Nathan-your software allows you to give annual report like if an officer has 6 complaints? Yes, we could see if the same officer has several complaints. Example, we had 500 complaints with 100 officers involved and one of those had 25 complaints. Be helpful if we can see a few outliers. Yes-we can track that information and the software does see it if there is a duplicate officer. Year-end report could include that? Yes. Inspector Hendricks-after investigating a complaint, allegations might be false.

Gambit Aragon-speak of some of the hurdles the office has experienced so that cases aren't closed. Are some of the issues because the delay of getting information? Inspector Hendricks-one of the main hurdles was when we submitted requests for info we needed to IAB. We didn't have our MOU agreement until recently, so we didn't have access to things the investigators needed. The investigators can go three days a week to the Jerry Hammond building so that they are on the network to review things they need. Come the month of October, the board will see a lot of cases. Once we got our user access in late August we were able to do so much more.

Mary Younger-so there are still materials the DIG doesn't have access to? CPD hasn't given access to? There are still a couple of databases that we do not have access to. Some of our access and the materials we can view are limited. If we find that access is limited we do ask. Generally meet with the Chief monthly so it can be discussed as the needs arise.

Gambit Aragon-looking at August, do you feel we staffed accordingly? Yes. Reviewed August stats-135 complaints received, 99 closed, 16 pending, 20 open, none are closed. The non-emergency line message did not indicate what we do so we were receiving a lot of calls that weren't complaints. We did correct the message on the non-emergency line so now when someone calls the non-emergency line it indicates what the DIG does.

Inspector Hendricks reviewed September stats-28 complaints so far, 8 closed, 20 pending, 0 closed. The majority of the calls received so far were not very pleasant,





a lot of hate calls from the recent events that have happened in the city. We make a point to address the complaints and will provide the info to the board. In October the board will see reports of closed investigations.

Kyle Strickland-it would be helpful if in the future, maybe on the larger report if we could get a sense of how we compare to other DIG offices. On the PDF complaint form it states the info is open to public records. I don't think that the online form indicates that all the content is subject to public records. Will get that updated to include disclaimer.

Brooke Burns-you mentioned some of the events of the past few weeks. Can you remind us what you do with criminal complaints if BCI is already investigating something for criminal action? We cannot conduct any criminal investigations, we are administrative. We did get some calls over the weekend regarding the recent shooting. We can open the complaint but would put in as inactive because we can't look at it while the criminal investigation is going on. We don't want to interfere with criminal investigation because we would need to do interviews/talk to people/gather information. Right now if we get a complaint or if the board voted to initiate a complaint we'd have to put it on hold. We don't know what the criminal investigation outcome would be. If the person was prosecuted, they wouldn't be on the force anymore so I don't know if there would be a need to do an administrative investigation if they are no longer on the force.

Kyle Strickland-I think a little bit more clarity would be beneficial to the board as far as understanding what exactly might be coming before the board and what wouldn't.

Brooke Burns-is there a way for us to be able to see who filed & what those issues are? Say Rev Tatum believes that the board wants to initiate a complaint, how would we know if one has already been filed? Bethany would be your point of contact, go through your Chair to request that info. She enters most of our complaints and can search the system to look for a particular complaint. For clarity-open investigation, you would "stay it" pending BCI investigation but that





90 days is still in effect from the original complaint being filed? Inspector Hendricks-if we open within the 90 days of the incident occurring, we would be able to “stay” the case pending the criminal investigation.

Kyle Strickland-how is that possible because isn't it 90 days to close a complaint? Inspector Hendricks-we have 90 days to conduct the investigation.

Pastor Nathan-regarding the recent shooting that resulted in a fatality, we don't know as a board if there was a complaint filed by a person that has standing such as a family member. If someone on the board doesn't initiate an inquiry, we then have to vote to have DIG open an investigation. Need a system that will trigger info coming to us because that 90 day clock is running from the time of the incident.

Brooke Burns- for clarity we have two 90 day clocks. 90 days to file a complaint and 90 days to investigate a complaint. Comfort in knowing something needs investigated but it's already a case so that we haven't missed anything.

Pastor Nathan-regarding the 3 recent shootings, is there something preventing us from asking now if there was a complaint filed on Donavon Lewis. Inspector Hendricks-you can ask and we would have to search the system to see if a complaint has been filed.

Willard McIntosh-glad we are talking about this. If the person is indicted then citizens will be okay, but if the person is not indicted, the public is going to be vocal & there will be problems.

Rev Tatum-we need to make sure everyone has a chance to speak. There needs to be a point of order so every member has a chance to speak. We are asking for something that hasn't happened yet & likely will not happen until the process has taken its course. If someone asks questions we forward them on to Chair Jackson per a recent email sent to the board. I hope we don't become a board that looks for reasons to do things when they aren't there yet. If we get a complaint, we act on it. Why would we initiate a complaint when something concrete hasn't





happened? Thought police did their investigation first. If the board is then not happy, we lodge a complaint.

Brooke Burns-say BCI takes 110 days, we'd miss our window of opportunity. Ex. Jason Smith is at center of an investigation of excessive force, takes 100 days and it is decided not to indict that officer. There can be no investigation if past 90 days.

Robert Tobias-the 90 days is to file a complaint to get an investigation moving forward. It would be prudent for the board to check with the IG to see if a complaint was filed. If a complaint has not been filed, the board can initiate a complaint. There can be a special meeting to vote, could do weekly meetings if the board wants. Could do an administrative hold on a case and Matrix would let the IG search for that. BCI investigations for a fatal shooting are not going to conclude in 90 days.

Kyle Strickland-moving forward, we as a board need to decide on how we want to pursue these types of instances. Say the criminal investigation is completed and then the admin hold is released, at that point what would be investigated? Inspector Hendricks-we'd look to see if the officer violated any policies & procedures, not the criminality of case.

Mary Younger-could also proceed with excessive use of force or misconduct? BCI could find that there is no indictment but we've covered ourselves because we initiated a complaint. Inspector Hendricks-in the criminal law it is beyond a reasonable doubt, our investigations are a compilation of the evidence. We look at policies & procedures and the actions of the officers. Our findings would be what we present to the board and our recommendations.

Kyle Strickland-is there a thought process about certain cases that are on administrative hold? Worry about a case being on administrative hold while BCI is investigating. How is the DIG prioritizing cases that have been on administrative hold? Inspector Hendricks-we don't have anything on administrative hold right





now. We have looked at that process and thinking about how the process would be efficient & effective. Need to meet with BCI and have conversation with them.

Robert Tobias-BCI conducts investigations but they don't determine the course of action. Prepare a report and then that gets referred to the prosecutor's office to review.

Pastor Nathan-needs to be some standard language so the public understands what the IG does. Could we put that together especially for the high profile cases? Elevate high profile cases to a line item in our board meetings. Inspector Hendricks-part of the process for the month of September, along with Mary Younger is the community outreach program and getting our info out there. Will be sending out info for different events for board members to attend. We have some material too that can be given out that focuses on the CPRB so once that is approved we will send that along.

Brooke Burns-could we ask Bethany before a meeting if a high profile case came through the IG office? IG-yes, the chair or vice chair can ask.

Willard McIntosh-one of the disconnects between the police and the public is not debriefing after a tragic incident. If someone is not indicted, people need to understand why. All life has value and all life has equal value.

Kyle Strickland-it will be important about having a statement from the department when these incidents occur. When they do occur there are statements by elected officials and it would be helpful if the board or DIG also makes a statement.

Thank you to the many departments for the DIG's success. If not for so many departments DIG would not be here.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE-

Mary Younger-met with the Inspector Hendricks this morning. Materials have been printed and they're ready to go. We are going to have a short meeting to review the materials. We are currently working with the rec centers and commissions. Last Thursday we went to the North East community meeting. Bethany will send email about the events and then 2 or 3 members will be picked by myself. IG made a wonderful presentation. She was effective, let them know what was available to them, and they had time to ask questions. The rec center meeting was a great idea. More we are out there, the more the community will know what we are doing. Really working on this and it will evolve. Community relations person will be hired. IG Hendricks has done a wonderful job putting the office together. Really pleased with everything so far. Around 20 people attended the last event on Thursday at the North East Commission.

Inspector Hendricks-be sure to mention VIP events. October 6th VIP board members, city council, maybe a luncheon for the board to come do a walk through. October 8th for the public to come see things.

Brooke Burns-attended an event with Deputy and a couple investigators at the East Market. It was a great event, people were really engaged and asking questions.

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS-

Brooke Burns-At our last meeting the board had been asked to co-author a grant so that initiated a conversation. Robert Tobias-initially this was posed as is this legal. Maybe outside the authority of the board as opposed to not being legal. Going back to the statute, this type of work isn't in the scope of the board's authority.

OCTOBER MEETING

Brooke Burns-Virtual training through NACOLE. Bethany is working on the details for the training. Anticipate some completed reports for October. In the interim,





remember we set up review subcommittees. Gambit Aragon to take the place of Aaron Thomas on the subcommittee board. Have 3 subcommittees that will be reviewing reports. We will set up a review schedule so everyone is getting an equal number of reports to review. Guidance to read through the reports, what to do with them, Robert Tobias will be available to give guidance.

Approval of minutes

IG updates.

Rev Tatum-We need to revisit high profile cases next month on how we will handle things, put together a protocol. Also, thank you Brooke for conducting this meeting.

Pastor Nathan-entertain a motion to initiate an investigation? We have a very high profile case and 2 other shootings. Why would we wait a month to move to initiate an investigation? Robert Tobias-you can make a motion with a conditional motion if there is not a complaint already filed, that the board would like to initiate one.

Brooke Burns-have 3 high profile shootings over the past few weeks. Motion in regards to one or all 3 shootings? Motion would be for all 3 shootings.

Mark Fluharty made motion if there is not a current complaint on all 3 shootings, the board will initiate the DIG to file a complaint. Mary Younger 2nd the motion.

Kyle Strickland-doesn't really matter if complaint hasn't been filed. The board can initiate one. My understanding is one shooting is not being investigated by the BCI. Would be in support of moving forward.

Robert Tobias-make sure there is language that indicates it is conditional that if a complaint is already filed, the board doesn't need to open up a second complaint.

Mark Fluharty—motion is if there is not a current complaint, the board initiates the DIG to open up a complaint. Gambit Aragon-we need to be specific on which cases.





Brooke Burns-August 20th is West side shooting with no BCI, August 27th is 17 year old shot after traffic stop, and August 30th is when Donovan Lewis was shot and killed. Mary Younger's 2nd still stands. DIG will open investigation on all 3 high profile cases as long as a case hasn't been filed already.

Pastor Rich, let's say someone withdraws a complaint. Would it not make sense for us to initiate a complaint? Robert Tobias-regardless you could ask for complaint to be filed & then they get merged together into 1 case. The 2 types of complaints the DIG gave were misconduct & excessive force. Public could have filed a complaint on excessive force and the board wants to be sure misconduct is being addressed as well.

Brooke Burns-motion on table to have the DIG initiate investigations on all 3 high profile shootings-passed unanimously, motion carried. Need to ensure we get in touch with the correct staff person at the DIG to get those started.

ADJOURNMENT

Brooke Burns asked for motion to adjourn at 4:27PM. Rev Tatum moved, Pastor Nathan seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

