

# AURARIA CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021

**Location:** Tivoli 329 and via Zoom Conference

**Call to Order:** The November 4, 2021, meeting of the Auraria Campus Police Department Community Advisory Board (ACPD CAB) was called to order at 8:02 a.m. and quorum established.

**In-person attendance:** Cassy Cadwallader, Megan Cullen, Lauren Gutierrez, Nahum Kisner, Kim Myers, Alexis Nakabayashi, and Queen Pompee.

**Zoom attendance:** Otavaia Davis, Charles Musiba, Rosanna Sweeney, Jessica Valdez, and Marcia Walsh-Aziz.

**Absent:** Lisa Tafoya.

**AHEC administrative support:** Leora Joseph, ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor, ACPD Chief Michael Phibbs, and Laurraine Pollard.

**Public attendance:** Caitlin Ross

**Approval of Minutes:** As of October 21, 2021, ACPD CAB minutes were not distributed to members prior to this meeting, Megan Cullen moved that this item be tabled until the next ACPD CAB meeting on November 18; Nahum provided a second, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Chairs' Reports:** Megan Cullen requested an update regarding ACPD CAB's recommendation that ACPD host an event to highlight the new co-responder program on campus. Chief Phibbs indicated that the annual Auraria Campus Safe Night is next week, and Scott Poulton will be presenting about the program and his role on campus as a co-responder.

## **Subcommittee Reports:**

### **A. Policy and Procedural Review**

Otavaia Davis indicated that the sub-committee met last week but was unable to conduct business due to technical difficulties and the inability to record the meeting.

### **B. Community Outreach**

Cassy stated that the sub-committee meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

### **C. Marketing and Communications**

Megan Cullen noted that information about today's meeting was posted on Instagram and requested that ACPD CAB members let the sub-committee know if there are needs or ideas.

## **Priority Areas/Information Items:**

### **A. Anti-racism Training**

The first anti-racism training session took place October 20, 2021, and follow-up sessions are scheduled November 17 and 18.

Leora Joseph reiterated the concern previously expressed regarding recording the break-out discussion sessions and the agreement to edit recordings to exclude the break-out sessions. Megan confirmed that the recording from the October 20 training sessions will be edited to exclude break-out sessions and future break-out session discussions will not be recorded.

## **B. CU Denver complaints received regarding ACPD conduct**

Megan Cullen related that CU Denver requested that this agenda item be tabled as complaints should be addressed to leadership via the appropriate, established protocols. Leora Joseph advised that complaints that raise personnel matters are not appropriate for general discussion and cannot be addressed in an open meeting; further, given ACPD CAB's commitment to social justice, the presumption should be innocence until guilt is determined after a full investigation.

Discussion followed regarding what is appropriate and inappropriate to discuss when complaints are forwarded to ACPD CAB, noting that a distinction should be made between specific complaints, which potentially contain sensitive, personal information and possible personnel matters under investigation, and systemic issues or patterns in practice. Within the discussion, it was voiced that the group should discuss the incidents which were sent as the group should be transparent and honest with the community about what we are sent and know. Nonetheless, it was voiced that the incidents are under investigation, and the group would be basing their conversation on assumptions rather than facts.

Megan Cullen moved that this agenda item proceed as to the larger issues rather than the specific incidents reported; Kim Myers and Otavaia provided a second and the motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that another agenda item (Statement from LaVette Jackson) would be addressed on a later date and is separate from the complaints received.

After discussion, the following potential items were proposed for future consideration:

- Free speech
- Officer burn-out/Perception of callousness
- Trauma-informed care
- Transparency
- Process when complaints are submitted to ACPD CAB
- Policing and mental health

Megan Cullen expressed concern that although the ACPD website provides information about how to file a complaint, people do not know about this resource; additionally, the website does not address how complaints are handled. Leora Joseph noted that ACPD can address that.

Chief Phibbs explained the process and offered to provide further training at a future meeting, including information about State statutes, ACPD policies, and examples from actual investigations.

- Complaints can be filed with ACPD in any way people are comfortable reporting, including online, in-person, or via email. Additionally, reports may be made anonymously.
- When a complaint is received, Chief Phibbs determines which unit will investigate, which may require engaging an outside agency such as the Denver Police Department or Colorado Bureau of Investigation if a potential conflict of interest exists. Any complaints about the Chief are forwarded immediately to his direct supervisors (AHEC chief executive officer and AHEC general counsel).
- All complaints are reviewed to determine needed changes to administrative, criminal, or risk management practices.
- When ACPD conducts an investigation:
  - An officer will contact the complainant and set-up a meeting to collect information.

- Notifications are sent to all parties under investigation and officers may be put on administrative leave and instructed not to talk to witnesses.
- After the investigation is completed-usually 1-2 weeks-the complainant is provided with a written summary detailing how the investigation was conducted and the findings.

Chief Phibbs noted that the threshold for "use of force" is a strict standard so many things get reviewed, including any time a weapon or taser is unholstered-even if it is not used-and any time someone is involuntarily handcuffed.

Chief Phibbs stated that he supported representative Coleman and helped to pass the Colorado law that provides the public full access to IA investigations when completed-people can watch the videos, see the evidence, etc.-and reiterated his commitment to fair due process and transparency to the public.

Discussion followed regarding how ACPD can engage the campus community with ACPD CAB's support, to let people know about complaint processes but also to highlight the good things ACPD and our officers do. Lauren Gutierrez expressed concern that some community members are "yelling into a void" and ACPD needs to address that disconnection. Commander Jason Mollendor stated that ACPD wants involvement and will push forward productively despite dissenters but needs ACPD CAB to help ACPD to connect in meaningful ways, noting that police officers are members of the campus community who work and teach at Auraria.

**Action Items:** None

**Board Comments/Announcements:** Megan Cullen noted that Alexis Nakabayashi and Lauren Gutierrez will continue to temporarily serve as secretary to ACPB CAB.

**Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

- Further review of AHEC Strategic Plan
- Revisit meeting times for Fall Semester and identify method for determining Spring Semester meeting times
- By-law review and revision
- Body Worn Camera summit
- ACPD Complaint Procedure process
- Request from Chief: Overview of current oversight of ACPD

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.