

AURARIA CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

Location: Tivoli 329 and via Zoom Conference

Call to Order: The September 23, 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, Lauren Gutierrez, Nahum Kisner, Alexis Nakabayashi, Rosanna Sweeney, and Marcia Walsh-Aziz.

Zoom attendance: Megan Cullen, Charles Musiba, and Queen Pompee.

Absent: Elena Getto and Lisa Tafoya.

AHEC administrative support: Leora Joseph, ACPD Chief Michael Phibbs, and Laurraine Pollard.

Public attendance: Caitlyn (in-person), Andrea Borrego (via Zoom), and Jenny Fox (via Zoom).

Guest attendance: Sam Rabins and Scott Poulton from the Co-Responder Team/Crisis Intervention Response Unit at Mental Health Center of Denver.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the September 9, 2021, ACPD CAB meeting minutes was motioned by Cassy Cadwallader, seconded by Alexis Nakabayashi, and passed unanimously without amendment.

Chairs' Reports: Megan Cullen indicated that MSU Denver has appointed a new student member to ACPD CAB. MSU Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Simkins will notify the student of the appointment and ACPD CAB will facilitate the onboarding process.

Subcommittee Reports:

A. Policy and Procedural Review

Lauren Gutierrez indicated that the subcommittee continues to review the application and selection process for appointments to the ACPD CAB and will submit its findings and recommendations to the Auraria Board of Directors. Additionally, they are collaborating with the community outreach subcommittee, reaching out to vocal groups who have hosted events on campus.

B. Community Outreach

ACPD Corporal Andrew Pannwitz attended a meeting and presented the ACPD Annual Report. Additional information has been requested regarding outreach events to highlight how ACPD is currently engaging with the campus community.

C. Marketing and Communications

Megan Cullen confirmed that ACPD CAB meeting times, agendas, and recordings as well as open ACPD CAB positions are posted online. Additionally, an Instagram poll was conducted regarding the new co-

responder program on campus with 100% of the responders (total number of responders unknown at this time) indicating that they didn't know about the program.

Information Items: Megan Cullen reminded members that the first anti-racism training session is scheduled for October 20. Chief Phibbs requested an agenda for the day with the times for each session so that he can assign ACPD officers to attend as appropriate. Megan indicated that the follow-up training sessions previously scheduled for November 17 and 18 must be rescheduled due to the training facilitator's prior commitments.

Co-Responder Program:

Megan Cullen welcomed Sam Rabins and Scott Poulton from the Co-Responder Team/Crisis Intervention Response Unit at Mental Health Center of Denver and thanked them for joining the ACPD CAB to discuss the new co-responder program at Auraria.

Sam Rabins, assistant program manager for the Co-Responder Team/Crisis Intervention Response Unit, provided background information about the program and co-responder activity on the Auraria Campus. Established in April 2016 to serve the Denver metro area, the unit has grown to more than 30 qualified mental health professionals, including Scott Poulton, co-responder for the Auraria Campus. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism for individuals with mental health or behavioral issues who are experiencing an acute crisis, by connecting them with mental health services. The co-responder unit partners with ACPD, the Denver Police Department, Denver Fire Department, Denver Sheriff, and the RTD. Sam Rabins and Scott Poulton did not have any information on the impact of working with the police on connecting services to clients being served.

Scott Poulton, co-responder for the Auraria Campus, explained that although his interactions with students have increased with the return of activities on campus, he primarily works with non-affiliates on campus regarding substance abuse, homelessness, and mental health issues like anxiety. If ACPD is called to respond to a crisis, they can deploy Scott when it is determined that an individual's mental health is of primary concern rather than potential criminal activity. As a co-responder, Scott can facilitate transportation to the Mental Health Center of Denver's new Solution Center, which is located about 1.5 miles from campus. The Solution Center is a crisis stabilization unit that conducts evaluations, provides stabilization programs, and offers a 30-day residential treatment program. To get to this crisis center an individual must ride in a police car even though they are not in custody, and it is optional. The co-responder, Scott can ride along with the person to this crisis center. If an individual declines transportation in a police vehicle, Scott helps to get them to a walk-in clinic or other resources as appropriate.

As to working with ACPD, Scott indicated that the police department has a different role than a co-responder and he has seen officers have great interactions with both community and non-community members. Although Scott reported that some community members have reported feeling unsafe and uncomfortable with police presence.

ACPD Chief Michael Phibbs added that he began working with MSU Denver about two years ago, exploring how ACPD could collaborate with the MSU social work program to conduct research, assess the program, and make recommendations about how to have the greatest positive impact on campus. ACPD gave up an officer to fund the co-responder program and has very few resources available to support the program. In the future, the Mental Health Center of Denver will broker for grant funds and expand the program.

Discussion followed about how ACPD needs to increase transparency in services and reach out to the Auraria campus community to let people know that this program exists and detail how this program functions. It was also discussed that ACPD CAB is an independent community advisory board and it would be inappropriate for the board to take on the responsibility of communicating to the community on behalf of the ACPD. Sam Rabins indicated that there has been no community outreach done up to this point from Mental Health Center of Denver, or ACPD and mentioned that any marketing materials or campaigns must be approved through the Mental Health Center of Denver marketing and public relations team.

Action Items: Megan Cullen facilitated a vote to determine if ACPD CAB meeting frequency should be reduced to once monthly. With only three affirmative votes, meetings will continue to be held bi-weekly.

Board Comments/Announcements: Marcia Walsh-Aziz will email absent ACPD CAB members to inquire about serving as secretary. If no member volunteers to serve as secretary, Alexis Nakabayashi and Lauren Gutierrez will share the responsibility for meetings in October.

Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings: None

Public Comment: None

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