

VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative 23 September 2020 - Meeting Summary Community Advisory Board

1. CAB Members:

Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor VOC

Jeanne Dewey, Trustee VOC, Public Safety Committee

*Dr. Richard Sternberg, Trustee VOC, Chr. Public Safety Committee

Chief Frank Cavilieri, Cooperstown Police Dept

Senior Officer, James Kelman, Cooperstown Police Dept

Bruce Maxson, Assist. Public Defender

Rev. Dane Boston, Rector, Cooperstown Episcopal Church

Dr. Richard Brown, Psychiatrist, Bassett Medical Center

Adam Richter, Bassett-Columbia Medical Student

*Veronica Pokorny, Communication – Paperkite Creative

Dr. Anush Patel, Oncologist, Bassett Medical Center

[* = unable to attend 23 September meeting]

2. Determined at the 9 September meeting that these documents would be important to review. They were sent digitally, prior to the Sept 23 meeting:

- Police budgets
- Union Contract
- Police Response Summary
- Resolution – Welcoming Community
- Use of Force Policy

3. Update on stakeholders/community programs which we identified as important and from whom we would like to hear.

- DSS/ Emergency Housing (Chief Cavilieri)
scheduled for Sept. 23 – see below
- Mobile Crisis Assessment Team[MCAT] (Richard Brown and Adam Richter)
- Jail Ministries of Otsego County (Dane Boston)
- Bassett Healthcare/CPD interactions (Richard Brown and Adam Richter)
Tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21
- Destination Market/Chamber of Commerce - for visitor interaction/impression of local police (Ellen Tillapaugh)
Mayor Tillapaugh had contacted both Destination Marketing and Chamber of Commerce. Neither organization indicated they collected any data or had a metric for visitor/police interactions or impressions. The Executive Directors of both organizations indicated that they occasionally received questions on parking tickets, but no negative feedback
- Cooperstown EMS & Fire Department
Bruce Maxson pointed out that the CPD is often first on the scene of a medical or other emergency, often before the Squad or Fire Department arrives. With that in mind he will ask FD Chief Jim Tallman and EMS Captain Eric Pierce to present.

4. What supports could the community/Village provide for our police department?

- Ensure training opportunities – **de-escalation training planned**
- Support Employee Assistance Programs (critical incident counseling, etc.)

Presentation - AMR, Gary Kuch – scheduled for Oct. 7

5. Community supports - Otsego County services

We welcomed Susan Matt, LCSW-R, CASAC Director of Community Services, Otsego County (607-433-2343) and Eve Boubulis, Commissioner of Social Services, Otsego County (607 547 4355).

Chief Cavilieri noted that when dealing with individuals with mental health or addiction issues, the police are asked to gauge “are they a threat to themselves or others.” Obviously some individuals might not be a threat, but they do need support services. For those who need support services it often seems police get them to a hospital or clinic, and before the police department has even completed the paperwork, the individuals are released. Or an individual may end up in jail, and support services are not aware that assistance is needed.

Everyone stressed the need for good communication between law enforcement and services. Police are often the first contact or first response to an individual in crisis.

Susan Matt – summarized what was available from Community Services.

- Crisis support during business hours call the Otsego County Mental Health Clinic at (607) 433 2343.
- Or Bassett Hospital Outpatient Clinic at (607) 547- 3500.
- Crisis support after hours call the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) at (844) 732-6228.

MCAT seeks to de-escalate a crisis situation, preventing possible harm, keeping the problem outside of the legal system and avoiding hospitalization when appropriate.

Eve Boubulis – summarized the crisis systems and other services in place at DSS. They include:

- Income maintenance [Medicaid, SNAP, HEAP, Temporary Assistance, etc.]
- Child Welfare Services [Foster Care, Child Protection, Juvenile Justice, etc.]
- Child Support [obtaining financial support, medical coverage and child support services, etc.]
- Adult Protective Services [abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, etc.]

She pointed out that many services are not immediately available - applications and paperwork are necessary to get into the system. The sooner they are made aware of a situation, the more quickly they will be able to provide the necessary services.

All agreed that open lines of communication between these agencies and our Police Department is critical to effective community policing.

Next meetings: 5 pm Ballroom/Village Hall
[1st and 3rd Wednesdays]

Oct 7, Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18