

VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative

21 October 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]

2. We briefly discussed the Friends of Village Library series of programs – Cooperstown Reflects on Racism. The links to the programs and the link to the recordings of the programs were shared via email.

<http://libraries.4cls.org/cooperstown/2020/09/15/fovl-fall-virtual-program-series-9-23-20-thru-10-28-20/>

The final program is - Wednesday October 28 7-8:30 Cooperstown reflects on Racism and Healthcare

This is the link to the recordings of the programs which have already occurred:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC55qfGwnH4Z0zVezDitur2Q>

3. We welcomed Harold Southworth, Network Director of Public Safety & Transportation at Bassett Medical Center. Bassett interacts with CPD primarily with individuals having a mental health crisis. Discussion of that interface and gaps in service noted -

- 3 day lag time after an individual is released from Bassett before many social service programs are accessed.
- Bassett has social worker 12 hrs/day which can facilitate
- MCAT supposed to be 24/7 but essentially after 6 pm, no one is available and MCAT support line indicates a hospital Emergency Room should be used. Lack of funding for MCAT; Emergency Room becomes main option
- Legal limitations on control of adults, so hospitals/support networks often become a revolving door, with police departments frequently picking up same individual
- Mental Health Law -standards & requirements; §9.39 emergency admission standard
- Lack of beds/services for children and adolescents

Rich Brown asked if there was a clear handoff process. Harold felt that hand offs with Village and Otsego County work well. The lack of shelters/housing in our area is an issue; in Oneonta police often take individuals to hotels, where there is no monitoring or support. An individual leaves and the police again deal with same behaviors in the community. During the Covid-19 pandemic communities have seen a marked increase in stress and anxiety disorders.

Authority of Bassett security officers ends at the property line. Differences in licensing and training between security guards and police officers. New York State legislation is being advanced to create Peace Officer status for Bassett security personnel.

Discussion of opportunities for synergy and training between Bassett and CPD. Harold felt the working relationship and communication between Village Police and his department was very positive. Noted that Bassett security schedules trainings, active shooter drills, tabletops, etc., and Village police are welcome to attend.

Chief Cavilieri emphasized that everyone benefits from training. Police officer training includes de-escalation techniques, being aware of body language and trigger words. The importance of body cameras in revealing the complete incident and what led up to a critical moment.

CAB plans to review the CPD Use of Force policy in November. The policy was distributed via email following our initial September 9th meeting; all CAB documents are also on the Village website under "Police".

Next meetings: 5 pm Ballroom/Village Hall Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16, Jan 6, Jan 20,
[1st and 3rd Wednesdays]