

VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative

7 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 welcomed Gary Kuch. His early training was counseling and peer support programs. For a number of years he volunteered with the Delaware Otsego Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team. It worked primarily with emergency workers – Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Squad staff. The Team was established by a doctor of psychiatry at Bassett Hospital and Hank Nichols of the Village police. It included volunteers who had training in mental health counseling as well as police, fire fighters and emergency squad members who could relate to the critical incidents that could cause significant stress. It was noted that often in a rural area, responders often know the individuals they are called upon to assist in an emergency. The program was designed to take care of the care giver, and help them deal with stressful situations in order to prevent burn out and mental health crises. It was noted that they worked with peer counseling and support to acknowledge a normal reaction to an abnormal situation.

The police department felt comfortable availing themselves of this support network. They are planning to attend a suicide prevention webinar within the next month.

Dr. Brown noted that he has also referred individuals to Uniformed Service Program in Brattleboro, VT - an additional resource.

3. Update on stakeholders/community programs which we identified as important and from whom we have heard or will hear:

- DSS/ Emergency Housing **Sept. 23**
- Mobile Crisis Assessment Team[MCAT] (Richard Brown and Adam Richter arranging)
- Jail Ministries of Otsego County (Dane Boston arranging)
- Bassett Healthcare/CPD interactions **Oct 21**
- Cooperstown EMS & Fire Department **Nov 4**

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

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

Following the meeting, via email, Rich Brown recommended the Village Library's series of programs -Cooperstown Reflects on Racism. The link to the virtual programs, with more information is below.

Cooperstown's local efforts to look at racism in tourism, healthcare and education

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

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

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

The next two in the series are:

Thursday October 15 7-8:30 Cooperstown reflects on Racism and Education

Wednesday October 28 7-8:30 Cooperstown reflects on Racism and Healthcare

Next meetings: 5 pm Ballroom/Village Hall

Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16, Jan 6,
Jan 20,

[1st and 3rd Wednesdays]