

POLICE REINVENTION COMMITTEE

10/27/20

Zoom Minutes

Present: Christopher Moss, Chemung County Executive
Sheriff William A. Schrom, Chemung County Sheriff's Office
Chief Joseph Kane, Elmira Police Department
Deputy Chief Anthony Alvernaz, Elmira Police Department
Mayor Daniel Mandell, City of Elmira
Chief Thomas Barr, West Elmira Police Department
Neil Milliken, Town of West Elmira
Chief Rick Churches, Elmira Heights Police Department
Mayor Margaret Smith, Elmira Heights Village
Chief Thomas Stickler, Horseheads Village Police Department
Nathan Nagle, Horseheads Village Manager
EMO Director Douglas Houper, Emergency Management
DA Weeden Wetmore, Chemung County District Attorney's Office
Attorney Hyder Hussain, County Attorney's Office
Commissioner Brian Hart, Department of Social Services/Mental Health
Lt. Julian Hughey, Chemung County Sheriff's Office – Corrections
Public Defender Peter Finnerty
Melissa Brown, Chemung County Sheriff Admin. Asst.
Randy Reid, Reid Media Group
Anita Lewis
Georgia Verdier
Jerome Emanuel
Miquelle Fountain
Nykole Parks
Sam Zoubi, Corning, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Schrom at 9:05 a.m.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 10/13/20 by Attorney Hussain and seconded by Sam Zoubi.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Roll call was done with all above individuals present. Juhura Shazer had a prior commitment and was unable to attend.

Chief Joseph Kane - EPD:

An Agenda had been provided to all committee members last night:

II. Committees Established

A. Mental Health

1. Lewis, Hart, Verdier

B. Faith Based

1. Zoubi, Shazer, Hughey

Kane: EPD had a Police Chaplain looking to perhaps re-establish that

C. Public Hearing

1. Reid, Fountain

Kane: Could do this virtually or a mix of in person and virtual. Perhaps add Jerome Emanuel.

D. Community and Youth Engagement

1. Parks, Emanuel, Finnerty

III. Elmira Police Department Disturbance Statistics

- A. Statistics and maps. EMO Director Douglas Houper shared the 2017, 2018 and 2019 EPD maps for disturbance calls by patrol sector and each sector is colored by household % below poverty level. Every year the Westside South Sector had the highest # of disturbance calls but was only the 3rd highest for % of households below the poverty level at 31.12%.

Chief Kane: This is perhaps due the businesses downtown. It has always been “understood” that the Eastside tends to handle things on their own rather than call the police, which is why they would have lower numbers.

DA Wetmore: What is classified as a Disturbance? **Chief Kane:** A Disturbance could be any slew of things from a dog barking, noise complaint, loud music. It could even start out as a Disturbance but change to a Mental Health complaint once investigated. It was asked at a previous meeting if we could break down the Disturbance calls by location in the City of Elmira, instead of by just agency. That is why this map was created.

Sam Zoubi: This is the number of households below poverty level NOT population numbers correct? That is correct

Nykole Parks: Why did you pick Disturbance calls? Does this include things such as Shots Fired?

Chief Kane: No those would be separate, but could have started as a Disturbance and then changed to Shots Fired call.

IV. Brian Hart

- A. **Mental Health Services** and Crisis Intervention are really the same thing. Two years ago they did a collaborative training with Elmira Police Department for impact on law enforcement. Should be doing regular trainings. They do have an after hour response team which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They probably respond to 50% of the calls face-to-face. They do call for law enforcement to assist unless it is at another agency or at a school. Law enforcement comes in to clear the scene and assesses if they are a risk to themselves or others. If they are, they are then taken to the Arnot Ogden Medical Center Emergency Room. Brian Hart meets with Family Services quarterly to review the outcomes and statistics. Law enforcement can determine if the individual needs a Pick Up Order (are unwilling to go voluntarily) or they can call CRISIS, which they often do. Out of the 1,500 that go to the Emergency Room, approximately 58% of those cases are admitted for further evaluation or treatment. If the mental health agent does not agree with the hospital's decision either way, then Brian Hart will call the hospital to discuss the situation. Crisis also goes to the Chemung County Jail to assess inmates on Constant Watch. Family Services and Trinity are also allowed to go into the Chemung County Jail to work with inmates.

Anita Lewis: Where is this process written? **Hart:** There is a New York State Office of Mental Health manual that addresses both the mobile crisis team and suicide prevention matters and feels our efforts on these are ahead of the game in New York State.

Anita Lewis: Can we distribute this information more to the public or mental health agencies?

Georgia Verdier: Is there enough funding for this? **Hart:** We are in a fiscal crisis because of COVID, we had been doing good. However, there is a 20% withholding to all state funding for the 3rd and 4th quarters this year. This will probably continue into 2021.

Atty. Hussain: There are 300 calls to Crisis yearly, do we have a yearly training with Law Enforcement on these? **Hart:** No, we used to have Scott Forbes go to the Academy to train the cadets on this, but not since he left.

- B. **Crisis Intervention:** Same as Mental Health, see above.

C. Opioid: Brian Hart gets all stats from Narcan that have been administered in the county, except New York State Police because they have their own reporting system. There were the following overdoses reported to Brian Hart:

2016 – 123

2017 – 130

2018 – 91

2019 – 87

2020 – 90

The stats are further broken down into multiple doses of Narcan, how many fatalities, the town it happened in and what drug was found in their system. Brian Hart also provided the ODMAP for Chemung County and Broome County. However, the entering of this information is voluntary so might not be accurate for every county. Thought there would be a lot of repeat people, but that was not the case. Also found a trend with overdoses in retail parking lots, certain hotels or in state prisons.

D. Navigator program: There are three (3) staff members out in the community, distributing pamphlets, DSS applications, help in getting food, medical care, child care, etc. They have people from EOP, Samaritan Center and the Transformation Center. They reach over 1,300 people in the 14901 and 14904 zip codes alone.

V. Law Enforcement Reinvention Initiative – Chemung County Website

Kane: A new website was started for the Law Enforcement Reinvention Initiative with the link to the survey. It also has a link to each law enforcement agency.

VI. Public Hearing

Kane: A subcommittee need at least two (2) hearings and may be limited to video or zoom due to COVID.

Randy Reid: Target date of November 1st for the first hearing.

Jerome Emanuel: Would expect a higher participation and a larger impact to the community by Zoom hearing with live comments or submitting questions before the Zoom meeting that can be assessed and addressed at the Zoom hearing.

Chief Kane: Agrees with Jerome Emanuel on holding Zoom meetings. Send any ideas to Randy Reid. Also, perhaps limit the time for their comments.

County Exec. Moss: Perhaps Randy Reid should reach out to Aaron Dowd with IT. Need to have four (4) meetings by 1/31/21.

Chief Kane: Need feedback from the community.

County Exec. Moss: We will have the survey data. Need to get all call types out to the committee.

Attorney Hussain: Need an email address for written comments if they can't Zoom. Perhaps send an outline to the Subcommittee for direction. **County Exec. Moss:** There is an email address on the new website. The Goals and Objectives of the committee is in the Governor's Executive Order.

George Verdier: Steuben County finished their survey and we could look at that. They had 1,600 responses. **County Exec. Moss:** He has already looked at the results from Steuben County.

VII. Use of Force

Chief Kane: DCJS back in July, 2019 mandated reporting certain Use of Force by Law Enforcement. He will get EPD statistics out to the committee before the next meeting. DCJS just came out with updates to the Use of Force reporting requirements. Looking at making one uniform form for all law enforcement agencies in the county. It was asked about making a subcommittee for UOF, but not necessary since this committee can handle that.

Anita Lewis: Use of Force handled by Captain? Is there any quality assurance or Check the Checker system? **Chief Kane:** The officer fills out the UOF form and submits to his supervisor. It then is reviewed by Deputy Chief Alvernaz who submits both to Chief Kane for review and to the state. The way of reporting these UOF stats is changing on 11/1/20. These stats should be able to check trends and for inappropriate behaviors. They are reviewed and taken seriously.

County Exec. Moss: What is the percentage of cases of UOF that are caught on video? **Chief Kane:** EPD does not have in-car cameras so that is zero for them. However, 100% of their cases are on body cameras since their deployment in 2017. These events are also reviewed by Deputy Chief Alvernaz. If there is a death in their custody, the State Attorney General's Office also investigates, whether that police officer is on or off duty. **Sheriff Schrom:** The Sheriff's Office is the same. We have a different system for reporting, but we do use in-car

cameras and body cameras. We also have body cameras on the officers at the jail. Since the jail started using the cameras, the Grievances for excessive force have made drastically reduced. We hope this is due to inmates now knowing they cannot make false allegations. Also, by jail policy, if another agency has a UOF individual that is remanded to the jail, the jail booking officer will not take custody of that individual until they have been medically cleared.

VIII. Discussions:

- A. Improving/possibly increasing engagement with community groups. Don't need a subcommittee. Hopefully the new Human Relations position will assist with this.

Georgia Verdier: Excellent idea, there is a disconnect between the police force and the community. When you send 4 police cars to handle a disagreement between 2 juveniles, from their standpoint it seems like intimidation.

- B. Possibility of deployment of social services agency personnel instead of or in addition to police officers in some situations.

Brian Hart: They had discussed having caseworkers assigned for such things, but there is no funding for this. They currently have a good relationship with Crisis. Scott Forbes previously did trainings at EPD as peer counselors.

- C. Existing policies & procedures involving police deployment. Need to seek input from the current committee members.

Anita Lewis: Will these groups continue after the Executive Order is complied with? **Chief Kane:** We don't plan on abandoning all the work accomplished.

County Executive Moss: In the 2021 Operating Budget they have put in for an appointment to the currently vacant Human Relations Diversity position. They have also requested a Human Relations Specialist position which is a Civil Service position. These are going for approval before the Legislature next week.

Brian Hart: Should incorporate critical and stress debriefing.

Jerome Emanuel: When he was at Cornell Cooperative there was an EPD officer from Seneca Falls that came and spoke to the community on a personal level, shared his passions and family information. It made a powerful impact.

Anita Lewis: EOP has lots of groups with kids. If an officer just stopped in for 5 minutes, talk, relate, say Hi it would make an impact.

Chief Kane: One thing that made a big impact on kids was being at the schools on opening day, shaking hands with the kids. Need to make the kids' first impression with police a positive one. Need community engagement.

Sam Zoubi: Need more members on the subcommittees. Maybe need police officers on the subcommittees.

County Exec. Moss: We could put one chief of police on each subcommittee.

If anybody has questions from this meeting or for the next meeting, they can be sent to the Chemung County Sheriff's Administrative Assistant Melissa Brown at mbrown@chemungcountyny.gov She will send to the appropriate agency for a response or add to the next meeting Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned by Chief Kane at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheriff William Schrom
Co-Chairman

Respectfully submitted,



Chief Joseph Kane
Co-Chairman

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