



**City of Denton Police Department
Chief of Police Advisory Board
Minutes
November 17, 2021**

After determining that a quorum was present, the Chief of Police Advisory Board convened in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:04 pm in Classroom C of the Public Safety Training Center at 719 E. Hickory Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Rhonda Buckley, Katina Butler, Daniel Clanton, Sara Hensley, Jill Jester, Kristen Johnson, Kari Salyers, Trevor Taylor, Donald Thornton, and Priscilla Yeverino.

Ex-Officio Members: Brock Fischer, Samuel Garrison, Kim Kunz, and Nicole Shaw.

ABSENT: Cherlynn Hurd. **Ex-Officio:** Ed Reynolds

Also present were Chief Frank Dixon, Assistant Chief Bobby Smith, Deputy Chief Rachel Fleming, Deputy Chief Michael Rose, Deputy Chief Paul Willenbrock, Compliance and Accreditation Specialist Richard Williams, Public Information Officer Allison Beckwith, Public Information Officer Amy Cunningham, Senior Executive Assistant Robin Fox, Crisis Intervention Manager Sara Gawor, and Deputy City Attorney Michael Cronig.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. *DPD21-045* *Consider approval of the September 29 and October 27, 2021 minutes.*

Daniel Clanton moved to approve the minutes. Rhonda Buckley seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. *DPD21-046* Receive a presentation and discuss the following: Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), Fair & Impartial Policing, and Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT).

Compliance and Accreditation Specialist Richard Williams gave a presentation Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE); Deputy Chief Michael Rose gave a presentation on Fair & Impartial Policing; and Crisis Intervention Manager Sara Gawor gave a presentation on the Crisis Intervention Response Team. Board members asked the following questions:

ABLE

Board member Thornton

How do you track how officers are doing?

Dr. Williams

ABLE sends a feedback survey to the officers who have completed the training. We have an Anti-retaliation policy in place; we intervene as soon as possible before something happens.

Board member Jester

How are the officers who are intervening protected? Is ABLE also used by Sheriff's Department, State Troopers, etc.? Do you know how many agencies are using ABLE now?

Dr. Williams

Denton PD has an anti-retaliation policy. Allegations of retaliation will be taken seriously, investigated and may result in discipline.

There are 213 ABLE-certified agencies – includes Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies nationwide and in Canada. Denton has 20 instructors providing instruction to Denton, Dallas, and UNT Police Department. Near completion of the mandatory initial 8 hours for all employees and planning the 2-hour mandatory annual refresher training for all employees.

Sam Garrison

TWU is going through the process now. It is a good program; I first heard about it from Dr. Williams.

CIRT

Mike Cronig

Are dispatchers trained? How are dispatchers making the decision of whether an officer needs to go on a call, or if CIRT needs to go?

Sara Gawor

Dispatch can request CIRT, especially if the caller asks for them. However, majority of the decision to dispatch comes from the patrol officers already on scene who may request us to take over once they have evaluated the situation. 988 will be the number that a mental health consumer can call to get help; it is becoming a federal law. Denton Dispatch is undergoing the dispatch CIT training course. We are collaborating with them now, sitting in listening to calls.

Board Member Thornton

How do you ensure the protection of your team when they go on calls? If 988 is called, will you just send mental health or officers as well?

Sara Gawor

They are required to have a vast amount of training. All our officers are dressed in plain clothes, this way they are more relatable to people; we don't want to draw attention. But they can choose to wear a vest. The mental health staff learn how to apply tourniquets, use radios, and when to step back and let officers lead. We use role plays.

Board Member Kunz

Does this apply for juveniles as well? Sara – correct.

If a child is suicidal and they don't have someone to take them to a facility, will the police take them?

Sara Gawor

The County doesn't like to do emergency detention orders on juveniles because it is usurping the parents. But if the parent won't and it is necessary, they will.

Chief Dixon

The Legislature doesn't call the stakeholders into play when they create things like 988. We don't have a provider that is willing to go out on calls without law enforcement. We are trying to find different models – a lot of conversation needs to take place and a lot of infrastructure needs to happen before a lot goes into effect.

Dr. Williams

They receive 80 hours of "crisis training". It was previously 40 hours.

Board member Jester

I hear bits and pieces out there; it is helpful to hear how it works.

Board Member Thornton

Can we get updates on this as they come, and things that come from Washington?

Sara Hensley

Not every police department and city do things like this to help the mentally ill. The next step is looking at adding a paramedic to go out with the team.

Chief Dixon

We are in the process of that.

Fair and Impartial Policing

Board Member Thornton – I have so many questions on the psychological aspect. I would like to have Deputy Chief Rose back to talk and have more Q & A. I have a ton of questions.

C. DPD21-047 *Review and discuss Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule and topics.*

The Board discussed the proposed 2022 meeting schedule and possible topics.

The proposed 2022 quarterly meeting schedule was adopted. However, additional meetings can be scheduled as needed.

Possible topics discussed were:

- Fair & Impartial Policing Q & A
- Internal Affairs Case
- Ride Alongs with officers

Board member Thornton

Are there opportunities for more labs or ride alongs?

Assistant Chief Smith

Yes

Board member Jester

Are ride alongs available to any Board member?

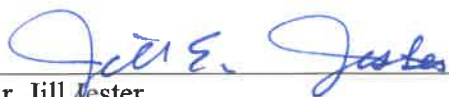
Assistant Chief Smith

Yes, don't see why it would be a problem.

Ms. Fox will send the Board members possible dates for Ride Alongs to occur before the February 23rd meeting.

Chief Dixon will decide on the topic for February the 23rd meeting; either an IA Case or Use of Force Case.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm


Chair, Jill Jester