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## Police Policy Committee

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Agency: [Cleveland Community Police Commission \(CPC\)](#)

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## Summary

- More evaluation of the accuracy of surveillance technology is needed.
- The committee is gathering and formulating policy based upon existing data and possibly contacting those with deeper experience in locations such as Detroit, Berkeley, and the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York.
- Concerns remain high about how search and seizure laws intersect with “pink slipping” people into involuntary hospitalization.

## Follow-Up Questions

- What is the new program being rolled out through the ADAMHS Board and the city? How will it be evaluated?
- How will the city address the issue with the battery life of the wearable cameras to ensure the officers are recharging them effectively?
- What vehicle does this committee use to distribute requests for community comment and why was the window to reply so short?

## Notes

Start time 6 p.m.

Present:

Shandra Benito

Kyle Earley via phone

Piet van Lier (chair)

Teri Wang

Benito said they have received good feedback about the framework. The crisis response and behavioral health aspect resonates with people. Benito and Earley worked together and met with Bree Easterling from [Policy Matters Ohio](#) and Elaine Schleiffer of [Care for CLE](#), a non-police care response program.

The committee wants to do a panel on the topic of pink slipping and the role police play in forced hospitalization regarding mental illness in regard to people's rights: What does it look like? What is the experience like being involuntarily hospitalized? What is the impact on families? What are the legal aspects?

The panel discussion would be in cooperation with the [Mental Health Response Advisory Commission](#) (MHRAC).

Next topic was the work group. They talked about doing an analysis of crisis calls from the last two years and what types of calls could be responded to by a non-police care model. MHRAC is supposed to evaluate the data but no longer has a data committee. The Cleveland Community Police Commission Policy Committee is better able to receive more data regarding who is making the calls, what's generally happening, when people are being charged, demographics, etc. Most likely the first meeting, to be held near the end of October, will produce a list of questions to be answered.

Earley said he had discussions with behavioral health agencies. They are eager to be involved, offering insight and services to officers and community members.

van Lier: Which agencies?

Earley: [Right Direction Behavioral Health](#) and [Minority Behavioral Health Group](#).

Wang: Stated she was a little concerned that she was hearing the same jargon over and over again. Conformity of language in the MHRAC meeting. Are there any more diverse thoughts outside of the direct ecosystem? Other people's perspective? Asked about people listed on the spreadsheet for the panel, their background and life experiences.

Benito explained that one person is someone who has experienced hospitalizations due to mental illness since her youth. Another is from an agency with experience working with mentally ill people. Didn't want to make the panel too big and discussed what type of experience they wanted for the participants.

Wang questioned why Cleveland Health Director Dr. David Margolius is listed.

Benito said he chairs MHRAC.

Wang said it seems like a closed ecosystem with little diversity of expression. She suggested speaking with people who work closely with affected people or who have

lived experience, such as caretakers. Are there more people out there who have developed care response programs? And who can provide the legal perspective?

Earley: Licensed therapists and psychologists who work with people with lived experience and can explain the experience, etc., would offer the “best of both worlds.”

van Lier: Open to suggestions.

Benito: If Wang has people in mind, she would be happy to reach out to them. Highlighted the experience of some people on the spreadsheet, including Amber Smith, the director of Crisis Services at the Nord Center in Lorain and formerly with FrontLine. Reiterated that she is open to reaching out to anyone Wang recommends.

Wang: “What is the purpose of the event?”

Benito answered that the purpose is to help people understand the process of pink slipping and the police role in it. The conversation will also cover voluntary/involuntary hospitalization, etc., what rights people have, making sure people still have their jobs, etc. The goal is to provide community education, not solutions, although earlier intervention is one possible solution.

Wang: “What was the origin of this? Did it come from feedback from the community?”

Benito: It came from a conversation with Schleiffer where she got feedback that people need to be hospitalized, people are not utilizing services, why people are afraid to reach out and afraid of being pink slipped. How to have a two-way conversation about the challenges and benefits.

Wang: Who is the target audience? Does the commission have a good marketing plan?

Benito: The audience is a mixture of community members, first responders and law enforcement.

### **Next item**

Wang said she had the first meeting with Brian Ray about surveillance technology. The data provided was very revealing regarding the accuracy of the technology. Wang said they spoke with someone who was able to share a lot about personal experience living

in an area with technology such as ShotSpotter. Hoped that the committee will not skip over the evaluation of ShotSpotter. Is there a field test that they can do?

Sent an email requesting a first meeting. Wang appeared to be talking about scheduling the first meeting of the surveillance technology workgroup. She asked if they have to be physically present for the meeting or can it be on Webex?

van Lier didn't have a preference. Asked if there is a rule regarding that.

Benito: If it's not a public meeting, they don't need to broadcast it.

van Lier: People should be made aware of it, but it doesn't need to be put on YouTube.

Wang: The technology is very expensive. The committee could split into two, with one group evaluating the technology and one writing policy. They need to concurrently evaluate the technology and have a duty to report to the community on how accurate the tech is.

van Lier: Can look at general police orders (GPO) and work with Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) and make changes as needed.

Wang would like to be alerted when City Council has meetings that involve this. She said that Marcus Perez, administrator of the Office of Professional Standards, said there's a concern that the wearable camera system may not last the length of a 12-hour shift. Officers are being told to exhaust the battery and then recharge. There is another battery bank option available for \$20. Police may not be getting accurate information about charging the battery.

Benito: This issue fits under the surveillance tech side.

Earley asked if they had looked at previous commission recommendations.

Wang: Yes, the recommendations were to follow the guidelines of the [Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission](#). The next step is to meet. They are very experienced, talking about drones, etc. She will ask Ray to reach out to them and get that information.

Wang: Seems like there's a concern that there is no limit on the size of the work groups.

**Next item**

van Lier: Overview of survey feedback on the policy committee framework. It was positive. They need to look at what has already been done based on community feedback. A few concerns were related to the Ohio Highway patrol and the county sheriff's department doing pursuits inside city lines and the use of force. Suggested working with agencies such as Care For CLE regarding non-police response programs. There was also a question about the use of surveillance tech.

Wang shared a piece from the [New York Times about a non-police response program in Brownsville in Brooklyn](#). She suggested that they get someone to make a similar proposal through the grant process system and also look at what is being done in Detroit. She said that to put out a policy is way too quick; need to build an on ramp for it.

She suggested they put out a solicitation for someone to propose this. Need to fix police discipline and response, but there are not enough police officers and that can overtax the other officers, she said, and that is part of what causes problems overall.

Earley asked how many people participated in the survey.

van Lier: "Eight."

Earley: Important to have clear goals and objectives.

van Lier asked if there were any changes needed to the policy framework.

Wang recommended that they talk to the people in Brownsville and Detroit.

van Lier: Some stakeholders have had conversations with those other cities. There's a lot of knowledge already out there.

Wang: "What is the resistance or what are the impediments to doing a pilot project with these groups that are involved already?"

van Lier said a request for proposal (RFP) is going out from the [ADAMHS](#) Board and the city is looking at that. That work is moving forward. The city is applying for a grant focused on dispatch, and a local coalition is focused on peer responders.

Benito said they are hoping to start monitoring police response in July of next year. There are a lot of questions about how it's going to be rolled out. Which grant is being pursued?

van Lier: [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) from the U.S. Department of Justice.

van Lier: Is there any editing or changes needed for the framework? He wants to get it approved by the full commission in a week.

**Public comment (off camera):**

Speaker: Expressed extreme disappointment that there was a small window for people to make comments and provide feedback. On care response: "Commissioner Wang, what you need to realize that is that there's a lot of moving parts." She said the ADAMHS Board and the mayor are doing their own thing without getting any community feedback. Not sure what the RFP is about when ADAMHS has already announced they are going with a provider they're going to use. Also, they were very disappointed about the previous commission not addressing the pink slipping as it relates to search and seizure. They are basically seizing someone when they hospitalize them. They need to ensure that officers receive training in hospitalizations. Need to educate the community about the crisis intervention team (CIT) first.

An unidentified speaker responding to the public comment: There was an in-service training for 3 hours on pink slipping, including the case law, the process, and the various things they need to see before doing it. The speaker agreed that it is still a seizure but it's a different type. Taking someone into custody is a seizure but there is no criminality.

Wang: What is the current CIT training for officers?

Benito: 40 hours initially and then 4 hours annually.

Wang: Who conducts the training?

Benito: ADAMHS Board.

Wang: Is there is any data on the success of the training?

Benito: Carole Ballard is the coordinator and is on the board of CIT International. Didn't know if there is any data about the success of the training other than an evaluation at the end. How do they look at the success of the CIT program?

Wang: Is CIT training based on a national model? Is alternative training available?

van Lier: CIT training is mentioned in the [consent decree](#) between the Cleveland Division of Police and the Justice Department.

Off-screen speaker: CIT has been around for at least 20 years (created in 1988 by Randolph Dupont, who is now a member of the Cleveland Police Monitoring Team.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

### **Resources:**

Cleveland Community Police Commission

<https://clecpc.org/>

Cleveland Community Police Commission, Operations and Procedures Manual

<https://clecpc.org/wp-content/uploads/CPC-Operations-Manual-v051023.pdf>

Cleveland Community Police Commission Event Calendar

<https://clecpc.org/get-involved/calendar/>

CPC, Police Policy Committee

<https://clecpc.org/our-work/committees/police-policy-committee/>

CPC, Police Policy Committee Meeting Agenda, 9/20/2023

<https://clecpc.org/wp-content/uploads/CPC-Police-Policy-Committee-Agenda-September-20-2023.pdf>

SoundThinking (formerly known as ShotSpotter)

<https://www.soundthinking.com/>

Four Problems with the ShotSpotter Gunshot Detection System

<https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/four-problems-with-the-shotspotter-gunshot-detection-system>

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)

[https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2021\\_st\\_alprfactsheet\\_20210105\\_final508.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2021_st_alprfactsheet_20210105_final508.pdf)

ADAMHS Law Enforcement Training and Public Safety

<https://www.adamhscc.org/training/law-enforcement-training-public-safety>

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