

## 4/1/24 PBAB Minutes

Present: Jeremy Busch, Amaris Elliott-Engel and Andrew Spink, members of PBAB

### Guests:

Lt Keith Green, Ontario County Sheriff's Office

Shelle Basilio, Hobart and William Smith Colleges Associate Vice President for Campus Life

Martin Corbett, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, associate vice president, Office of Campus Safety

Andrew shared that the lack of mental health services for Genevans in crisis has led PBAB to explore recommendations for how to incorporate mental health services within GPD.

Corbett stated HWS has a multi-phase process for students at risk, including a threat assessment team and behavioral intervention team.

Basilio shared that there is a care BIT team made up of 12-15 members at HWS, which runs case management services for students with mental health needs, characterizing it as a "360 degree holistic review." It includes counseling and follows students with past suicide attempts, anxiety and depression, etc.

Corbett shared GPD is ad hoc member of BIT team and will be called upon if students are in need of a mental health arrest for their or others' safety.

Basilio says there is a series of questions that the teams use to assess how much a threat a person is and how much intervention is needed.

Both HWS officials shared there is a new MOU with Ontario County to access information if a student or other campus member has had past mental health arrests, has access to guns and other critical information to inform the assessment process.

Basilio said after a student or other campus member is back on campus the care team continues to follow them. The director of the counseling center can state if they can stay on list to continue to be followed or not and can disclose information if necessary for safety. She has a caseload of students she meets with weekly in care and concern check-ins.

Corbett stated they have learned that the BIT team needed to have smaller membership and that documentation is super important regarding incidents.

Basilio says the BIT team is the threat assessment team, which is a smaller subset of the care team. The care team can assist bystanders to incidents too.

Corbett said this team also deals with employees and trespassers.

Green said that after the mass shooting at the Tops store in Buffalo Governor Hochul issue an executive order for every county to have a threat assessment team. There have been trainings in Ontario County for law enforcement, hospitals, county entities, town entities, colleges and large businesses. The theory is that an initial entity that brings in a threat will manage the threat but that other members of the county BIT team can be brought in if they need further assistance. It could even include the FBI or VA.

Green noted that people who are connected to Clifton Springs on a tablet for mental health screening are charged for it and that disincentivizes its usage.

Green also noted that Ontario County Mental Health is trying to set up a mobile response group for citizens in mental health crises. He noted law enforcement is “sometimes not the right fit” regarding response to mental health crises. He said Ontario County’s BIT team will be rolled out to the public in next month or two. He further stated nationally some law enforcement agencies do not respond to mental health calls at all. He noted law enforcement officers have communication skills, which is not the same as mental health treatment skills.

Andrew commented that DCJS statistics showed only 170-180 mental health calls in Geneva so a full time mental health person might not be justified. but Basilio pushed back and said that number of calls would fill a MH professional’s time due to follow-ups on top of response to initial calls.

Green said one challenge with BIT teams is the care needed in not targeting citizens as most of the people are not criminally involved. Another challenge is ensuring that there is no violation of HIPPA or FERPA and that diagnoses are not discussed. Documentation is “super important”.

Green and Corbett both said that adding mental health services to a law enforcement budget would not result in a reduction of traditional need for officers because police will still need to respond in subsidiary role to mental health crises.

Andrew provided feedback that the general consensus of visitors to PBAB meetings on this topic do not want to take law enforcement as a support to mental health crises.

The March minutes passed unanimously.