

Police Budget Advisory Board Minutes—May 6, 2024

Present: PBAB members Jeremy Busch, Amaris Elliott-Engel, Anthony Noone and BJ Radford

Absent: Michele Neary

It was first meeting for Noone and Radford as new members so meeting started with introductions.

Motion to adopt April minutes was passed by Busch and Elliott-Engel. Noone and Radford did not vote as they were not members yet.

Discussion was made as to new chair and Noone volunteered to be chair. Radford motioned for Noone to be chair and it was seconded by Busch. The motion passed unanimously.

Elliott-Engel summarized the work of the PBAB in recent months to get Noone and Radford up to speed. Prior to Busch and Elliott-Engel's tenure, prior members researched different models being used around the US for improving mental health response by law enforcement agencies. The models are: 1) train police officers for mental health response, 2) co-responder team, where officers and non-officer mental health professionals respond together, 3) mobile response team with mental health professionals without an officer. Starting in January, PBAB had a series of guests regarding improving law enforcement response to mental health calls in order to inform possible budget recommendations. In January, Jim Kennedy, County Supervisor for Geneva Supervisory District 1, and a mental health professional himself attended. In February, Acting Police Chief Ronald Eveland and Elyse Nepa, Geneva resident and Ithaca College ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CLERY ACT AND PREVENTION EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, attended. In April, Lt Keith Green, Ontario County Sheriff's Office, Shelle Basilio, Hobart and William Smith Colleges Associate Vice President for Campus Life, and Martin Corbett, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, associate vice president, Office of Campus Safety attended to discuss the behavioral intervention teams that are being developed in Ontario County and is already in existence at HWS. All guests have stated that a coresponder model is the best for public safety and that there could be improvements in how law enforcement is utilized for mental health calls.

PBAB also reviewed City Council guidelines for the board.

Noone noted there is a huge unmet need regarding mental health.

It was decided Noone would reach out to Acting Chief Passalacqua and Lt. Eveland about if it made sense to meet earlier than next regularly scheduled meeting depending upon budget cycle.

Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.

