



PIERCE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES May 27, 2021
Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER – FLAG SALUTE

President Tom Sutich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. no flag salute was held due to meeting virtually. He requested everyone mute their microphone so there's not a lot of background sound.

WELCOME and THANK YOU TO HOST

President Sutich thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

ROLL CALL – SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

There were 19 people in attendance.

PROGRAM – Silvia Riley, Manager Crisis Services Behavioral Health Services, MultiCare

Vice President Moffett introduced the Guest Speaker, Silvia Riley. Shared a powerpoint presentation. Manager for Crisis Services for Pierce County for adults. Crisis Line 1.800.576.7764 funded through the State and not a part of MultiCare. Warm Line 942.5644 or 1.877.780.5222. Mobile community integrated response team – more case management type services for those that need more longer-term services. Her team is the Mobile Outreach Crisis Team (MOCT). Work a lot in the community within Pierce County. About 48 to 50 staff, not all full-time. Have positions can't fill. Now offering signing bonuses, still can't fill. Not enough psychiatric beds available. Contact: rileysi@multicare.org

Open to questions. If someone calls 911, does it connect to the crisis line? No. Asked how to get the number out to people to know about? There is some legislation to change to 988 for it to be easier to remember. How many DCR's for the county? 15, not all are full time and 6 co-responders.

The Association thanked Silvia Riley for her presentation. Vice President Moffett stated as a token of appreciation from this association, will be sending an Association Challenge Coin to you.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and TREASURER'S REPORT

President Sutich asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. He'd like to add the following under New Business – A. Endorsements and B. Election for 911 representatives. No objections to changes. It was moved by Commissioner Eckroth and seconded by Commissioner McElligott to approve the agenda as amended and Treasurer's Report (see copy on the backside of the Agenda) as presented. MOTION CARRIED. Passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF April 22, 2021 MEETING

Commissioner McElligott moved and Commissioner Holm seconded to approve the minutes. Any discussion? Hearing none, anyone opposed? Hearing none, the April 22, 2021 minutes as presented were passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

SGT. AT ARMS – NAME BADGES

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

REGULAR REPORTS:

a) Regional Representative Report – Mike Cathey

Not present. Commissioner Rankin reported June 2nd and 3rd class, Jordon will be sending out information on. Phones are in the process of being done. Building has rented out 201 and 101 and moving in now and in June. Everything is going well. Lease is between 3 to 5 years. Roger is asking for people to send in classes for conference as it is still in planning process. Conference to be held in Tulalip in October.

b) Legal - Joe and/or Eric Quinn

Eric Quinn reported an important supreme court case today related to records requests (Green vs Pierce County). Youtube channel, not entitled to photographs or month and year of birth of public employees and volunteers.

c) SouthSound 911 – Debbie Grady

Reported board meeting this week went over regular items. Study Session coming up on State 911 office regarding memo to DEM 911 office use of 911 funds for not 911 call taking related things. June 11 and 12 begin phased in move to building. Starting with administrative and records offices. Following that, President Sutich talked about dates for tours of the building. Listening to mental health presentation, Governor did assign a 988 number to take place of 10 digit numbers. Should be implemented by July 2022. Commissioner Eckroth asked if the money for 988 would come out of different funding? Yes, it would have a separate funding source – 30 cent tax on phone bills initially. Commissioner Holm thanked Deborah for dealing with everything in such a unique year, thanked her for the wonderful job she is doing and we are extremely lucky that we have her on board.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

a) Fire Chiefs Association - Dan Rankin / Tom Sutich

Commissioner Rankin reported next meeting is June 3rd via Zoom at 0900.

b) Legislative -

President Sutich welcomed Brandon Faust, regional representative from Thurston County. Stated he is new to the position. Had a meeting on 21st 1159 Commissioners from 5 to 7 will go into effect July 25th. 4338 expands training. 1189 tax incremental – Snure went through and comfortable with 2 amendments made. 1168 increasing wildland funding, DNR contracts going out to fire districts this week. 5189 rural ambulance services – allowed to have a non-EMT driver. Next board meeting supposed to be in person in July.

c) Bates Technical College - Dan Rankin

Reported he has not received a letter yet.

Fund Raising Activities - DORMANT- Ed Egan

N/A

d) Annual Picnic/Potluck – Bill Eckroth and Arlene Dannat

Commissioner Eckroth reported he hasn't spoken to Arlene. As far as he knows we are still planning on having the food truck in park in Orting, planning on going with as long as allowed. Shouldn't be a problem. Fingers crossed. President Sutich asked if it will be held at 6 pm like in the past? Yes, that is what is being planned.

e) Annual Banquet – DORMANT - Mike Cathey

Not present.

f) Scholarship & Education - Tom Sutich / Stan Moffett

Vice President Moffett stated if anyone would like to submit for the fall conference to do so. Needs to be submitted two months in advance. If anyone has any suggestions on how to put fund to good use, please reach out to him.

g) Awards Committee – DORMANT – Margaret O'Harra-Buttz

h) Membership – Kevin Gorder

Not present.

i) Programs – Stan Moffett

Reported Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands with DNR is lined up for June meeting.

j) Sunshine - Arlene Dannat

Not present.

k) NAEFO – Gerry Gustafson

Reported some classes have been held. There will be a NAEFO conference in Vegas September 20-21.

l) Nominating – DORMANT - Dan Rankin

m) Audit – DORMANT - Dan Rankin / Margaret O'Harra Buttz

n) SS911 Committee – Pat McElligott

Reported had a special study session last Thursday to discuss E911 money and the additional 20 cents. Working through an issue that is 30 years old. Chief Olson was on the study session as well that gave a clear history of how that money was supposed to be used for the call takers, not to help with radios, etc. PCDEM thought could use that money for other issues and did use it without approval. This goes back to years ago. Discussions will be taking place. Commissioner Holm commented that it's going to take everyone's help to address the issues. Need to focus on moving forward, not what's been done in the past, etc. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Endorsements

President Sutich talked to Attorney Quinn on whether it is

legal to do and also to Roger to make sure ethical. Both have agreed. 3 Commissioners running this year that would like to see PCFCA endorse. First one is Dale Mitchell. Entertain motion to endorse Dale Mitchell for Fire Commissioner for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue position 2. Commissioner Holm moved and Commissioner Eckroth seconded to endorse Dale Mitchell. No opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

2nd one is Pat McElligott – representative as SS911 for last 2 years. Nothing against Matt or Dan. President Sutich is the alternate, he is the most knowledgeable about SS911 as anyone on that board. Entertain a motion to endorse Pat McElligott for EPFR. Motion by Commissioner Moffett and seconded by Commissioner Rankin seconded the motion to endorse Pat McElligott. No opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

3rd one is Scott Casebolt – was on the E-Board in the past and very involved. He retired from Tacoma and was a Gig Harbor Fire Commissioner. Entertain a motion. Commissioner Jensen moved and Commissioner Allison seconded to endorse Scott Casebolt for West Pierce Fire & Rescue, Position 2. No opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

President Sutich asked Denise to email all three that the PCFCA is endorsing them. Commissioner Kadow suggested in the future doing this earlier to our endorsement could be included in the voter pamphlets. Unfortunately, we don't know who's running a month ago.

B. Election for 911 representatives

President Sutich stated next month need to elect a representative and alternate to SS911. Feels it is imperative that Pat McElligott stays on that. If someone is interested in being the alternate, that's fine. Nothing needed tonight. Will be voting next month.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Denise Menge,
Secretary/Treasurer

Website: <http://www.pcfirecommissioners.org/SitePages/Home.aspx>

2021 Meeting Schedule:

January 28, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom
February 25, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom
March 25, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom
April 22, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom
May 27, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom
June 24, 2021 – Remotely via Zoom

July 22, 2021 – BBQ/Potluck – Orting Park
August 26, 2021
September 23, 2021
October 28, 2021 – No Meeting – Annual Conference
November 18, 2021
December 2, 2021 – No Meeting – Annual Awards

Crisis Services for Pierce County

MultiCare Behavioral Health

Mobile Outreach Crisis Team (MOCT)

MultiCare 

Overview of Crisis Services in Pierce County

- Crisis Line (Crisis Connect) [1-800-576-7764](tel:1-800-576-7764)
- Mobile Outreach Crisis Team (MOCT part of [MultiCare](#))
- Designated Crisis responders (former DMHP's or CDMHPs also [MultiCare](#))
- Co-responder programs TPD, P. Cty Sheriff's and Lakewood.
- Child and Adolescent Crisis Team (CCS)
- Warm line 942-5644 or 1-877-780-5222.
- Recovery response Center
- Mobile community integrated response team (Comprehensive life resources).
- Telecare diversion team (T CAT) .

Pierce County Crisis Line

- The Crisis Line in Pierce County is a contracted provider of Beacon, our Regional Support Network. The crisis line provider for Pierce county is Crisis Connection.
- The Crisis Line is a single point of contact. Once contacted they will attempt to resolve crisis, if more is needed, they will refer caller to Mobile Outreach Crisis Team (MOCT) or the Children's Crisis Team (CCS). Goal: respond within 15 mins to referent.
- Anyone can call crisis line (family, friends, professionals)
- **Crisis Line can be reached 24 hours a day seven days of the week at [1-800-576-7764](tel:1-800-576-7764)**

Child and Adolescent Crisis Services

- Catholic Community Services (CCS) serves as the crisis team for children and adolescents in Pierce County
- They can be contacted through Crisis Line
- Services include intensive in-home support, temporary respite, brief individual and family counseling
- Services are for individuals up to 18 years old

Mobile Outreach Crisis Team



Mobile Outreach Crisis Team(MOCT)

Community Outreach

- Homes/Anywhere in the Community
- Residential Facilities
- Medical & Mental Health Offices
- Jails

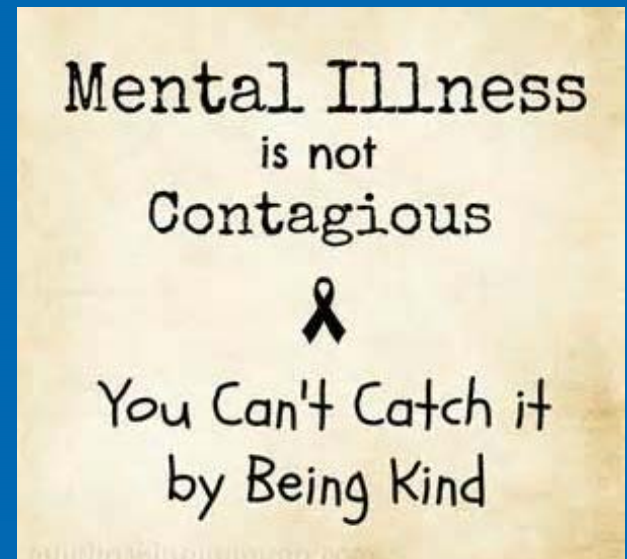
Collaboration

- First responders
- Providers
- Families
- Hospitals

Contact

- Face to Face Assessment
- Phone Welfare Checks
- Resource Information
- Follow ups

Available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.



Peer Support Services

- Promote principles of recovery (self direction, empowerment, hope, responsibility...)
- Share relevant stories
- Knowledge of resources
- Education and support to families and natural supports.

Crisis Intervention Therapists

- MHP (Master's degree) 1st level of response.
- Risk assessments
- Develops Safety plans.
- Connect or re-connect with services (mental health, substance use)
- Follow up services
- Education.
- Address barriers to treatment.
- Refers to appropriate level of services (crisis stabilization unit, hospitalization)
- Helps coordinate care with multiple system APS, Developmental disabilities, DOC...

Care coordinators

- BA or MA education.
- Similar responsibilities to Crisis therapist.
- Work with client's Insurance to help coordinate services.
- Hands on for follow ups, usually face to face.
- Spend more time engaging client in trying to connect with services.
- Accept direct referrals from co-responders.
- Assess, refer and coordinate psychiatric med evals/assessments.

Designated Crisis Responder

Involuntary Treatment Assessment



Designated Crisis Responder (DCR)

Are the only persons authorized by statute to perform investigations for involuntary commitment for up to 120 hours under RCW 71.05 (Adults) & RCW 71.34 (Adolescents age 13-18). DCR detention authority is only valid within the county for which they are designated.

Perform investigations for revocation of persons on less restrictive court orders, and conditional releases on 90 day and 180 day orders

Provide consultation to other professionals in Pierce County for persons with challenging issues.

Perform evaluations for filing of subsequent petitions for 14 day commitment for individuals who are detained in community hospital setting.

Provide expert testimony in court regarding persons who have been detained.

Referral Process

- Requests for investigations for Involuntary Commitment are made by calling Crisis Line at 1-800-576-7764
- After Designated crisis responder receives request, they will typically call back within 10-20 minutes
- When you are providing information to a DCR you need to consider this the same as if you are providing sworn statements to Pierce County Superior Court, as you could be called to testify at court regarding any of the information you provided in court proceedings should patient be detained involuntarily.

Information DCR's will seek for initial referral

- Name of individual being referred (Correct Spelling), Date of Birth, SSN.
- Your name, your position, agency you work for, contact phone number.
- Address, or Location of Individual you are referring (Contact information)
- Names and contact information for other potential witnesses with firsthand (directly observed) knowledge of situation. (Family, Friends, Neighbors, Landlords, Etc)
- Description of current mental status and associated observed behaviors (delusional thoughts, thoughts of suicide, thoughts of harming others, agitation, acts of aggression or self harm, etc)
- Description of baseline presentation when not in crisis (pleasant, talkative, takes good care of own needs, Etc)
- Serious health Issues that may require medical evaluation (Diabetes, Cardiac Disorders, Renal Disorders, Infections/Wounds, Blood Pressure, Seizures Disorders, Etc)

- Brief history of known treatment (Length of time in services, past hospitalizations, recent medication changes, recent changes in case)
- Less Restrictive Alternatives Explored – What has been attempted to resolve crisis – increased contacts to support person, utilization of peer support, consultation with supervisor or peers to review case, increased family support, emergency appointment for possible medication changes, short term admit to a stabilization bed, or to Recovery Response Center, Voluntary Hospital admission)
- Does person have an Advance Directive, DPOA, or Guardian? Have they been contacted?
- Current Medications, Recent Medication Changes. Are they Compliant with Medications?
- Is an Interpreter needed, and if so what language?
- Reason you feel person needs emergency psychiatric hospitalization to ensure his or her safety or that of others

After acceptance of referral the DCR will provide an estimated time for response. In some cases when person may not appear to be safe enough to await arrival, they may ask that 911 be contacted to ensure persons safety and the safety of others until DCR can respond.

- DCR's in Pierce County are expected to make all determinations of whether a person meets criteria for involuntary commitment based on face to face evaluation.
- A DCR may provide redirect and postpone providing face to face evaluation in situations where appropriate less restrictive options have not been fully considered or explored.
- April 2021 269 invol assessments and of those 113 detained.



Co-responder Programs

- Co-Responder Program aims to divert those in acute mental health and/or substance use crisis from emergency departments or jails to ensure they are receiving appropriate care and services.
- It's a "partnership" between law enforcement and mental health professionals to help earlier identification and intervention.
- 2015 City of Tacoma begins Co-responder program with 2 Mental health professionals embedded in the Tacoma police dept. Quickly moves to DCR model.
- 2016: Pierce Cty Behavioral health system study "preliminary research evidence on co-responder models suggest co-responder programs are instrumental in reducing the impact on the criminal justice system".
- 2018 P. Cty Sheriff's dept gets funding for 1 DCR through general fund. 3 DCR through Trueblood Phase !! Funding.
- 2019 P. Cty gets additional funding from Wa state association of sheriff's and police Chiefs.
- April 2020 P. Cty Co-responders begin "regional response"

P. Cty Sheriff's Co-responders



**21-minute average
response time**



**4,497 unique clients
reached
(June 2018 – March 2021)**



**<1% of contacts resulted
in arrests**



**3% of all contacts resulted in
emergency detention (ITAs)**



**55% of all contacts resulted
in referrals**



**15% of contacts refused all
services**

Mobile Crisis response (Trueblood team)July 2020

- Provided additional staff within in the Mobile outreach crisis team to help reduce response times.
 - Increase response to rural communities.
 - Increase in person responsiveness in both urban and rural areas
 - Increase services to individuals seen in crisis that need to be stabilized, connected, or reconnected with services
 - Provide community training and education
- Provides "follow ups for individuals seen in crisis.
 - Provide resources
 - Schedule transportation
 - Emergency med eval.



Dept. objectives for 2021

- **Reduce response times:**

- Avg response time:
May 2021 = 11 mins

- Response for ***face to face*** time.

- April 2020 = 187 mins
- April 2021 = 60 mins

- DCR response time

- April 2020 = 203 mins
- April 2021 = 144 mins

- **Provide follow ups for clients in crisis.**

- -April 2020 = 36 %
- Q1 2021 Jan-March = 33 %

Challenges and opportunities

- Very limited work force.
- Limited case mgt or face to face services for some of our higher utilizers of services. Recidivism.
- Single bed certifications.
- No invol Secured withdrawal management and stabilization facility in Pierce County.
- Lack of stable housing, congregate care facilities and transitional housing.
- Data gathering, tracking and analyzing it.
- 1/10 % Beh health tax.
- Wellfound Behavioral health Hospital now taking voluntary and involuntary patients.
- Additional voluntary beds with EMS and law enforcement drop offs in Parkland (to open very soon)
- Co-responder programs Tacoma Police dept. P. Cty Sheriff's (regional) and Lakewood.

Questions?

- Silvia Riley
Manager Crisis services
rileysi@multicare.org