



Community Advisory Board (CAB) Minutes

Tuesday 30 June 2020, 5:00 – 7:00PM
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Jody Emerson, Brian Peete (until 6:00PM), Stepanie Jean, Alfred Mills, June Bascom, Pat Hoffman, Sarika Tandon, Melanie Smit, Cameron Niedermeyer, Mattie Dube, Steve Reynes, Carol Plante

ITEM	ACTION
<u>5:00</u> Welcome & Introductions	CAB Members, CJC Staff & Others in attendance: What brought you to Restorative Justice? Welcome to Chief Brian Peete Recognition of Yvonne's Retirement: Yvonne shared her appreciation for how volunteers, participants and partners have broadened her experience and learning and that life is richer because of her work at MCJC.
<u>5:20</u> Administrative business	Review agenda for changes or additions: No changes requested Approve minutes of March meeting: No changes to the minutes. Approved.
<u>5:25</u> Circle Process	What is your Vision for MCJC in partnership with MPD? <u>Yvonne</u>: Expand programs and opportunities throughout the community. <u>Carol</u>: Expand referrals, build relationships with MPD and, together with MPD, with the community to educate about the opportunities for using RJ processes and other options for conflict management including the Conflict Assistance Program. <u>Brian</u>: After VT Police Academy, learn about VT law, will meet with SA Thibault, talk to officers and people in the community to understand needs and concerns. Will be sure what is referred is a good fit. Would like to conduct an event for citizens to learn about laws policies, etc to become familiar with what MPD does and to understand the process. <u>Jody</u>: Connection to schools—Continue relationship with SA who consults when youth is involved with LE outside of school. <u>Cameron</u>: Understand the relationship between the CjC and new social worker position at MPD. Meet demands and make other options available for citizens.

	<u>June:</u> CJC is positioned to have a restorative answer to many community problems. Includes using the Conflict Assistance Program to address larger systemic issues – community dialogue to address issues. Have a role in schools, Montpelier Alive (business community) to respond to repeated issues. Reignite things that have been done successfully before. Invite officers to be part of panels where they have been impacted or to observe the restorative process. Will revisit with Brian after he's been in the role for a while. <u>Pat:</u> To continue with VOS work, especially with people where there is not an arrest/ charge. Provides resources where people can get help and they learn about the relationship between MPD and the CJC. People feel cared for by the community and MPD even when no arrest. Hope officers, especially new, get a refresher on what we do. <u>Stephanie:</u> Would like to see more referrals for VOP through the CJC rather than going through court process. <u>Sarika:</u> There is a strong history of collaboration and the goal is to live in a peaceful, just community—any way we can collaborate. <u>Alfred:</u> Have Brian and/or officers observe the RJ and CoSA process. <u>Mel:</u> Saw an increase in PC referrals after officers attended panels to observe in Northfield. <u>Brian:</u> MPD will be updating the strategic plan and will not finalize until there have been consultations with partners.
6:10 MCJC financial and grant update	Yvonne update: Hard spring with COVID and the budget took a hit. Will be some COVID relief money coming to each CJC. Not sure what restrictions are yet. Legislature appropriated an amount and not sure if DOC will attach other parameters. We will end the fiscal year without a deficit. Pat is on furlough until the end of July. Need more info for FY21 budget – hire new RJ program coordinator at fewer hours than originally anticipated. Grants were level funded but really that means a cut because expenses go up each year. Not looking too bad. <u>June:</u> Are in kind contribution the same? <u>Yvonne:</u> Yes, it is a significant amount. <u>Stephan:</u> Legislature is retuning in mid August. If looking for more state funding we won't need to wait until January. Will be surprised if there are NOT cuts for last 3 quarters of year as what has been approved is just for the first quarter. Continue to think about how to get him info to share. <u>Stephanie:</u> Cares Act-- emergency budget 3 months then another to carry through until June 2021. Advocating no cuts because of the heavy lift by CJs due to COVID. Good sign that Commissioner Jim Baker is staying on until the end of the year. <u>Jody:</u> U32 is part of the Restorative Approaches Collaborative-- AOE has extended contracts to keep work going since COVID . <u>Yvonne:</u> Mary Hooper has been a friend of CJC since the beginning. She understands and supports what CJs do and is on

	appropriations committee. <u>Stephan:</u> Is married to Janet Ancil who serves on the Ways & Means committee—she is “quite a player”. Has served in house and senate so it would be easy for him to be of assistance if he is needed to talk to someone.
6:35 MCJC staff transitions	Process & timeline for hiring new RJ Programs Coordinator <u>Cameron:</u> The job has changed so it would be helpful to contact past finalists to let them know about the change and also see who else is out there who might be interested in the position. Might see a new group of people since COVID. Advertise on FPF, FB, website and CJC community for a few more applicants. <u>Sarika:</u> Could be helpful to get the word out outside of usual suspects. 7 days can run classified for as little as \$80. June & Jody agree. The Bridge, Times Argus would be local places to advertise. <u>Carol:</u> Will look at budget again to finalize the number of hours and salary range for position. Here the topic changed to fundraising: <u>Cameron:</u> This might be prime time to do a fundraiser—she will bring this up at City Council. Doesn’t see it as conflict of interest. <u>June:</u> Montpelier is different kind of community—It is made up of more than just residential tax payers who can be tapped into for support. Have done raffles in the past. Is it worth it? <u>Sarika:</u> If the CJC was a non-profit could have donate button on website. <u>Cameron:</u> The Senior Center not a non-profit and have a donate button. People appreciate the services and donate. <u>June:</u> People may donate for a specific purpose. <u>Pat:</u> The energy that goes into fundraisers for the return versus writing grants... Might be a better use of time to seek grants.
6:50 Next steps	Identify any follow up actions, agenda items for next meeting. Future Agenda: Bring Brian back – follow up Fundraising Budget—DOC last 9 months of the year based on Legislature – could this affect CJs? Regionalization—where is this conversation now? Other topics discussed: Could the CJC participate in MPD’s community listening events? The CAB could meet with and listen to where cooperation is possible. Offer panels in other towns? Would be helpful for communities to learn more about what we do.

Educate town officials and officers. Bridge the gap between Norwich and the town of Northfield. Helped advance concept of RJ in schools. After Brian's listening sessions have something like this in Montpelier? Also meet with new MPD staff in person when we can.

Sarika: Zoom—participation levels high- try sooner than later and when staff is ready. CJC as part of vision for “defunding police”. Timing important with new police chief and the momentum of change.

Mel : Northfield Equity & Awareness group—outline topics discussing and objectives so people know what they are attending. Suggest if hosting a public meeting with officers, stick to what we agree we'll be talking about.

June: Maybe follow up MPD sessions after his outreach to community. How might it work in partnership with the CJC— timing.

Cameron: Social and Economic Justice Committee--listening sessions being organized to talk about justice systems in general. It would be good for representation from the CAB to be there to offer a restorative perspective.

Pat: Be prepared for all voices and allowing all topics to come up.

June: Invite conversation and be careful to not use divisive language.

Jody: Should we be a part of the Listening Circles (Cameron)? Cameron will share info about meeting tomorrow.

June: Brian's efforts will open up relationships.

Cameron: MPD is hiring a social worker that will be shared with Barre PD.

Stephanie: People need to be educated about how referrals happen and that it's an option.

Cameron: The city needs to do a better job telling their story. Want to have communication and dialogue rather than demands and response. Mayor also meeting to figure out how to do this better.

Next Meeting: 9/22/20, 5:00PM

Adjourned 6:54PM

Submitted by Carol Plante