



COAB Work Session
Thursday, July 28, 2016
City Hall Council Room Chambers
1221 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97204
5:30-8:30pm

Work Session Notes to prepare for the 10/25/16 Status Conference

Ideas and feedback on what to put in the report

- City's noncompliance with the settlement agreement, such as not replacing empty COAB seats
- There hasn't enough community input in the process
- It's hard to comment on changes to policy because only one has come back to the COAB (mental health)
- Bring a packet of recommendations to Judge Simon so he can see what the response has been
- It's not clear who's responsible for responding to recommendations
- City has not always embraced its own proposed changes
- Most discussion has been about COAB's interaction with the community.... Appropriate to get written community input
- AMAC is an *amicus curiae* in the Settlement Agreement; there should be some kind of mental health organization that is also an *amicus curiae*, as well.
- Perhaps include written or media/audio recordings from individuals and organizations
- It's essential for Judge Simon to that the CRC was allowed to play fast and loose with policy procedures

- There is no good faith in police oversight (accountability)
- Roger Hardesty's email.... Maybe using appendices to incorporate feedback like that.
- Tom summarized his draft:
 - Incorporates feedback from community
 - What COAB's been doing/tried to do and its accomplishments: recommendations, community engagement, commenting on COCL's work and its reports.
 - COAB has received virtually no response from DOJ, none from City. No feedback frustrates COAB and community, and has led to distrust.
 - Significant changes need to be made if the settlement agreement is to work and if COAB is to be successful:
 - COAB should chair itself
 - COAB should be independent from the City and not public officials so we aren't restrained by some of the laws that prevented us from doing certain kinds of work
 - Formal recommendation for a Court-appointed monitor
- Statistic for report: a survey (which?) found that 80% of police don't think the Settlement Agreement will be... useful (? – missed the word that was used.)
- An important accomplishment: establishing the BHU
- Mention City-PPA negotiations: There is little the community can do without changes in current laws. PPA contract stops a lot changes from happening because it wasn't open to public knowledge. Concerns with Police contract should be shared before City votes on it. Public should be involved in creating procedures.
- There should be a table of acronyms or glossary to explain terms. Be more accurate about fatal interactions with police, that's what the community cares about. Add data about intersectionality to the report.
- The City using and excuse for the reasons why it's out of noncompliance is not okay and should not be used as a reason to not work with COAB/work on the settlement agreement. Community is counting on the COAB to articulate these concerns. There should be community participation in forming policy recommendations.
- There isn't a way for the community to talk to Judge Simon. We don't want to lose local control in changing police. We don't want to lose the COAB's voice to a Monitor. The COAB could really only ask for the Monitor to take comment from the COAB.
- Judge should know that there is still ramped use of force by police. Doesn't seem that anything is being done. Marginalized individuals: impoverished people, people of color... the judge should know that there are other avenues that community members are working on to create reform. Officers could be "repurposed" — utilizing their skills but in different ways for different purposes. Also, some behaviors are taught, we need to help retrain officers.

- “Attrition of Members” handout isn’t accurate as far as reasons given for leaving. Clean it up to be more accurate. This will provide a clearer picture for judge.
- A community member could participate in the presentation to Judge Simon.

Ideas and feedback on community oversight moving forward/general feedback:

- Two things needed to make the process work: 1) training in group process/ learning processes for communication... looking at communications from a broader/systems perspective and 2) more mental health education/training... noting that when this process started, members of the mental health community decided not to be involved because they didn’t think the process was a mentally healthy one.
- COAB should look at the PPA contract. City has never disciplined/terminated an officer for excessive force use related to in custody death. I worry about cops who have killed people being given higher level jobs. How do we terminate bad officers- there’s no accountability. The officer who killed Keaton Otis is now a district attorney.
- COAB should be a part of the City Council meeting concerning the PPA contract vote. Contract should not have been made behind closed doors with a lame duck mayor.
- We are not getting the crux of the community involved. In order to move forward we need to come together and put pride aside so we can get work done and not disillusion community members. We should make sure everyone can buy into this process. What can we do to work together? Disruption cannot be accepted.... The magic is in the details (Walt Disney)
- Maybe have an after care team for people triggered by police so we can care for that human. That means caring dialogue grounded in a sense of community
- Reports from COAB to the City Council are not required but should be done.
- Be sure to list specific reasons for changes in paragraphs for Semiannual Report feedback
- Court appointed monitor: the monitor would report back to the judge and maybe the DOJ. COCL would report to the City.
- If we move to a Court Monitor, there should be periodic public interaction with them. Perhaps talk with the incoming mayor about his ideas on reforming police?
- After everything, we have two white guys running this meeting tonight.
- Tom said that people of color that left because they felt the COAB was a scam and waste of time, perhaps they are right based on how the city is treating it.
- We have to stay at the table in order for people to be at it.

- As we look at COAB structures, we should have a rotating presiding Chair position. Perhaps rotate every six months? It's important to have discussions about how the COAB would like to change the structure.
- Whoever comes on board should understand what recommendations have been made.
- COAB should be allowed to comment on COCL Outcomes Reports – just as important if not more important as Semi-Annual Compliance report.
- COAB was doing great work until certain community members stopped any progress from happening. People began to give up.
- Perhaps more staff support would be helpful.
- Community looks at COAB doing work but nothing coming out of it. Resident safety and officer safety are not at odds. The community needs to see that COAB has a relationship with the police; that you are in dialogue with them.
- Can't listen to complaints if we're not listening to each other.

Next steps:

- COAB members will review Tom's and Philip's drafts; provide feedback/additions/edits/comments
- Social equity: Myrlaviani would like to write a section of the report addressing social equity
- Tom will compile edits and additional writing into a draft document and will give to Mandi for formatting/copy editing
- Mandi will send a completed draft for COAB members to review and will post to cocl-coab.org website for the Community to review
- COAB would like to hold a second work session on October 13th to review the draft together and gather final feedback to community. Need to confirm that this is possible and resources are available first