



COAB Work Session
Thursday, September 29, 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

Meeting commenced at 5:30 pm.

Ideas and feedback on what to put in the report:

- The City's noncompliance with the settlement agreement should be discussed, such as not replacing empty COAB seats.
- There has not been enough community input in the process.
- It has been hard to comment on changes to policy because only one COAB recommendation has come back to the COAB (concerning mental health).
- It would be good to bring a packet of recommendations to Judge Simon so he can see what the response has been.
- Discuss that it is not clear who is responsible for responding to recommendations and what to do if they do not.
- The City has not always embraced its own proposed changes.
- Most of the discussion has been about COAB's interaction with the community. It is appropriate to get written community input.

- AMAC is *amicus curiae* in the Settlement Agreement; there should be some kind of mental health organization that is also *amicus curiae*.
- Perhaps include written or media/audio recordings from individuals and organizations relevant.
- There is no good faith in police oversight (accountability).
- Tom summarized his draft:
 - It incorporated feedback from the community.
 - What COAB's been doing/tried to do and its accomplishments such as 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 it is not restrained by some of the laws that prevented it from doing certain kinds of work
 - Formal recommendation for a Court-appointed monitor
- Statistic for report: a survey found that 80% of police don't think the Settlement Agreement will be useful.
- An important accomplishment: establishing the BHU.
- Mention City-PPA negotiations. For example, there is little the community can do without changes in current laws. And the PPA contract stops a lot of 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 its procedures.
- There should be a table of acronyms or a glossary to explain terms in reports. Be more accurate about fatal interactions with police because that's what the community cares about. Add data about intersectionality to the report.

- The City's use of excuses 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 or work on the Settlement Agreement. The 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. The community doesn't want to lose local control in changing police. The community doesn't want to lose the COAB's voice to a court monitor.
- Judge should know that there is still rampant use of force by police. Doesn't seem that anything is being done. 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 is not accurate as far as reasons 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 are needed to make the process work: 1) training in group process/ learning processes for communication, 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 use of force related to in custody death. Worried 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 have been 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.
- COAB has not been getting the crux of the community involved. In order to move forward everyone needs to come together and put pride aside so work can get done and not disillusion community members. We should make sure everyone can buy into this process. What can be done 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 people can care for that human. That means caring dialogue grounded in a sense of community.
- Reports from the 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.
- The court-appointed monitor would report back to the judge and maybe the DOJ. COCL would report to the City.
- If the City moves 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, there are two white guys running this meeting.
- Tom said 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.
- 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.
- The 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 there is dialogue with them.
- Can't listen to complaints if no one is listening to each other.

Next steps:

- COAB members will review Tom 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.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.