

**COAB Work Session Notes**  
**For the October 25, 2016 Status Conference**  
**October 13, 2016**

**COAB members in attendance:**

Catherine Gardner  
Philip Wolfe  
Tom Steenson  
Myrlaviani Rivier  
Rochelle Silver

**Opening Discussion:**

- Both Philip and Tom were interested in presenting; members present all agreed that Tom would.
- Tom said he would like an official COAB meeting two weeks from this meeting. The recess expires by then.
- The group wants separate letterhead for the COCL and the COAB.

**Report:**

- Philip asked if Roger Hardesty's 10/13/16 email should be used for report.
  - Rochelle said it was important but should not directly be a part of the report
- Dan Handelman fact-checked and corrected several parts of the draft.
- Tom said Mireaya and Catherine want to sign off on the report but he had not heard from Laquida.
  - Overview of the current draft:
    - First section: description of the efforts COAB has made, tried to accomplish, and what was pending.
    - Second section addresses obstacles and actions the COAB has taken to address them.

- Nancy asked how much of what happened at the protests over the Council vote on the Portland Police Association (PPA) contract can be incorporated into the report.
- Comments/concerns about the PPA contract: Philip thought it should be in the report.
- Rochelle and Tom: there needs to be an end-date for what gets including in this report.
- Mike said the status conference is probably the last time the COAB will speak. Important to so say the COCL/City is in contempt.
- Dan said on p. 5 of the draft: letter that DOJ wrote in reply to the MHCRS recommendations the paragraph says letter is attached but it's not in report (July 1, 2016 memo). Throw in a little detail on what some of the recommendations were. Maybe just a few examples. Tom then discussed time limitations of the presentation.
  - P. 8: lists that there were 46 AS recs --- there were 48
- Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition (AMAC) is waiting to hear how a court monitor would work with a community board – they'd like to see a plan first before they sign off on it.
- Myrlaviani wanted to talk about Jason Renault's letter.

**Public Comment:**

- Philip Cachka suggested the COAB could list the names of the Commissioners who have not filled COAB vacancies.
- Reverend Luke Walters of PAMI said that at the last work session the term “repurposing” was brought up. Perhaps in the repurposing of COAB, focus on what has worked rather than what has not. But how much of this repurposing would take this out of the scope of what COAB exists for? It would be refreshing for community to lead the way. The Community Engagement workshop worked well. It would also be good to connect with neighborhood associations.
- Myrlaviani said that despite great ideas and incredible talents, the letter from Jason Renaud pointed out a lot of problems with the COAB-COCL structure. But the Settlement Agreement has potential because this way the victims are at the table.
- Ann K. said it is important for COAB and the City to know how to work with trauma; the process would be easier.
- Myrlaviani said a Community Trauma Response Team could be possible through restorative practices. She had spoken with some COAB members and she said she would like to do something with this.
- Philip said once COAB was independent it could make that happen.

- Ann K. asked who in the City could be contacted about this. Myrlaviani thought perhaps Commissioner Amanda Fritz.
- Dan said it is important to reemphasize that until the Settlement Agreement is modified, the COCL and COAB are still bound to each other. In paragraph 163 about Semi-Annual reports, it says the COCL has to present to COAB; they should not tell COAB they don't have to be there. The City has met with stakeholders individually but everyone needs to talk about this together.
- Ann B. asked COAB to please consider beginning with a short synopsis of what is written in the report.
- Ann K. talked about how the community got shoved out of the Settlement Agreement process. People with lives experience of mental health issues did not have a legal person with them, so they didn't become one of the parties to the Settlement Agreement. AMA got free legal assistance, the City, but they weren't sure if AMA represents the mental health community.
- Katie said there could be ways, such as through Disability Rights Oregon. It may be better than going through the City.
- Philip said people in the mental health community are targeted by officers and that intersects with race, culture, class, etc.
- Tom said renegotiating the Settlement Agreement might be a time where the mental health community/advocacy groups might apply to get *amicus curiae* status. Maybe AMAC could help.
- Kalei mentioned that built into the Settlement Agreement, the COAB was supposed to help facilitate the building of trust. If COAB wants to have a trust-building operation then where and when will this begin, who will lead it, and who has the authority to make it happen?
- Philip said the group should focus on what police accountability means. If it can do that, maybe the community would have more trust.
- Luke said he was in a good position to help. There are a number of coalitions forming in the peer community, but he wanted to be clear on what the message is/what to convey to them.
- Myrlaviani said it was time to have community discussions in a circle facilitated by people who are in recovery, to build relationships, and go from there.
- Philip said he wanted to keep lines of communication open. He thanked Tom for his major role in creating the report. He also mentioned wanting to sit down for a coffee date with Ted Wheeler if he's available.