

MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting

March 17, 2021 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Teams Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Charlene Apok
Sharon Chamard
Emily Edenshaw
Garry Gilliam
Kendra Kloster

Members Absent

Andalyn Pace

Representatives Present

Battalion Chief Brian Partch, AFD
Captain Sean Case, APD
Andrew Preis, OEM

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:02PM, quorum present.

Minutes: February 2021 minutes approved.

Reports

AFD, Battalion Chief Brian Partch

- No written report provided to Commission.
- AFD is in the process of creating a monthly standard/formal report.
- Current Data:
 - February 2021 saw approximately 2,500 emergency incidents, a decrease from February 2020. Roughly 1,400 of those incidents were transports to local hospitals, a 40% increase from February 2020, with 38 of those confirmed cardiac arrest.
 - Over 9,000 calls were made into AFD Dispatch:
 - Approximately 2,300 calls were 9-1-1 related.
 - Approximately 5,000 calls were administrative in nature (non-emergent).
- AFD is replacing the ladder truck at Station 11 (Eagle River) with a 4-wheel drive engine. The new apparatus, due to be in service at the end of March 2021, is better suited for inclement weather and elevation to enhance response and service for the community of Eagle River.
- As part of a cost saving measures, AFD is pulling the medical boxes off the chassis of ambulances and remounting them onto new chassis. Two (2) remounts are expected to be completed this year along with four (4) new ambulances.
- Available for questions, none received.

APD, Captain Sean Case

- Written report provided to Commission. See attached report.
- Lt. Burington is unable to attend the meeting and sends her apologies. APD requested feedback from the Commission regarding the content of the written report.

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Discussion

Apok: Inquired what the next step was regarding the body worn camera policy? To whom do comments get routed to and what is the timeframe for submitting these comments, etc.

Referenced COVID-19 vaccinees for APD personnel on APD report. This topic was a previous question the Commission had regarding the vaccination of APD personnel.

What is the process for fielding questions to agencies? Should questions go directly to agencies, or through Alissa as the Municipal Liaison?

Chamard: Noted that agencies have provided a liaison, it would seem appropriate to email or contact them directly.

OEM, Emergency Programs Manager, Andrew Preis

- Reviewed monthly report, see attached report.

Discussion

Apok: Does the sheltering referenced in the OEM report fall within the scope of OEM due to the current emergency orders, or because of COVID-19?

Preis: The cost of operating the current shelters (congregate, non-congregate, and isolation) are eligible for reimbursement through FEMA. As long as the federal declaration continues, the shelters are eligible for reimbursement through Public Assistance. OEM reports to FEMA through the State of Alaska for reimbursement.

The shelters are not only a function of OEM, but they are largely managed and administered by the Anchorage Health Department (AHD). Currently working on a transition plan for sheltering operations to be managed solely by AHD.

Beans Café and Catholic Social Services will eventually be managed by the private sector again.

Apok: Suggested AHD receive an invite to participate in a future meeting. Also, requested an update on the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team.

Kloster: Was the Commission considering adding AHD to every meeting, or just to provide an update?

Apok: Clarified that an update from AHD would be sufficient (as opposed to monthly).

Municipal Liaison: On behalf of the PSAC, the Municipal Liaison will reach out to AHD contacts.

Committee Reports

- Public Safety Outreach
 - Committees have not yet been formed. Therefore, no update.
- Budget Planning
 - Item not discussed.

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- Special Projects
 - Item not discussed.

Old Business

- Community Councils
 - Kloster: Contacted the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) regarding active councils. Portage Valley Council is not currently meeting; Eklutna Valley Council is not part of the FCC and operates on their own.
 - Kloster will draft an introductory letter from PSAC to the FCC. Once this letter is drafted, Kloster will send to fellow Commissioners for review.
- APD Body Worn Camera Draft Policy
 - Follow-up actions regarding policy provided by APD as well as discussion regarding work session for Commissioners regarding policy.
 - Proposition 4, which is a measure to approve the funding of the body worn cameras, will go before voters in April 2021.
 - Commissioners discussed options either to hold a public session pre-election or post-election. Commissioners opted for an internal special work session pre-election, as there are many moving parts to consider including funding.
 - Should Proposition 4 pass, the Commission will collaborate with APD to host a public event providing an opportunity for feedback. By this process the Commission will have done homework in preparation for a public meeting.
 - Commissioners agreed to hold the special work session on March 31, 2021, from 6PM – 7PM; at which time a public hearing schedule will be discussed.

New Business

- Cultural Trainings
 - Invitation extended to APD to be a part of the discussion.
 - Discussion was turned over to Cpt. Case with APD:
 - Referring to the cultural training, versions such as the one the Commissioners viewed have been taught over the course of the last 5-years. Instructors of this training have solicited feedback from the community, which has fielded considerable criticism regarding aspects of the training. This type of training is used not only during the academy (new officers) but for ongoing personnel training as well.
 - APD is open to feedback.

Discussion

Apok: Commissioners Edenshaw and Apok attended the cultural training hosted by APD. At no point during the training were the Commissioners engaged by APD. They were just observers. Noted that perhaps, in that instance, their role was just to observe.

Expressed the sentiment that the content used in training could potentially cause more harm than good. Inquired as to the process of providing feedback to APD; to whom and how to relay feedback, and what is the timeframe?

Cpt. Case: Suggested that it would be beneficial to focus less on areas of concern and focus more heavily on recommendations regarding the training. Also, less emails back and forth would be helpful for both parties. Mentioned that with cultural diversity and training there are a lot of unknowns and considerations.

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Edenshaw: Voiced concern that the training was very irresponsible and damaging. Acknowledging that there are indeed a lot of unknowns when it comes to cultural diversity. However, with so many people willing to work with APD there is no reason to not get this right.

Cpt. Case: APD wants to incorporate the feedback and work in cooperation with the community when it comes to cultural diversity training.

Apok: Commented that the training provided by APD was very one directional. The Heritage Center, Native Peoples Action (NPA), and the First Alaskan Institute wrote a letter to the Chief of Police and members of leadership at APD to extend training to leadership at APD. To date, APD has not taken advantage of this assistance.

Apok noted there are organizations that have offered constructive ideas and suggestions to APD.

Kloster: Reached out to several organizations to assemble training for APD and can construct something for the Command staff at APD. This training can be on-going, as well as utilized for onboarding (academy) training. Willing to compile information and present it to APD, possibly using one of the future PSAC meeting times. Organizations have offered to assist, co-develop training, and offer constructive ways to improve the cultural training for APD as well as other agencies.

Cpt Case: Requested that the Commission let him know when this training/presentation is available, he can ensure members of APD Command staff are present to participate in the training.

Kloster: Suggested that focusing on APD is a good start and would like to work alongside other agencies as well.

Public Comment

Michael Patterson (2-minutes): Inquired if the public can view APD's draft policy on body worn cameras. If so, where can this policy be found? Should Proposition 4 pass, asked if anyone has thought about legal questions and issues surrounding a policy on body worn cameras. Suggested that the public might require and benefit from this discussion.

Kloster: Asked the Municipal Liaison where the public can find a copy of the draft policy.

Municipal Liaison: The February 2021 PSAC Agenda includes the draft policy which is posted online at the Municipality of Anchorage's website. The minutes from February 2021 will also include the draft policy.

Apok: Noted that she has reviewed other jurisdictions policies regarding body worn cameras. Also mentioning that Chair Kloster's background is in policy. This Commission understands that they haven't covered all areas, however, they are trying to be prepared as possible to review the policy and provide input. The Commission is doing the best it can to be well informed.

Andy Erickson (5-minutes): Wanted to echo the comments of Michael Patterson. Erickson

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inquired as to the timeline for submitting comments (referring to APD's body worn camera policy) and what the Commission's process was for submitting comments. Mentioned concern in the overall process regarding soliciting feedback both by the Commission and APD regarding the draft policy. Currently, this process is completely unknown. Suggested that clarification on this process might be helpful and to include timeframe for providing feedback.

Erickson suggested that separate meetings to discussing individual issues would be beneficial for the Commission, noting that too much time and effort is being spent during the monthly meeting. Voiced concern that the Commission is losing focus, noting that the bylaws of PSAC indicate that committees can be formed. Erickson suggested these committees focus on some of these topics and let the Commission and monthly meetings be focused on broader topics and not specific issues. Erickson noted that other boards have used committees very effectively in bringing their findings back in an organized fashion.

Lastly, noted that an update was provided to the Commission by AFD and OEM, with no update from APD. Understanding that Lt. Burington may not have been in attendance, however with an APD Captain in attendance there was still no update. Expressed frustration that since the previous meeting, several news articles regarding APD's social media postings have occurred without a comment from APD. Strongly encouraged more transparency from APD, and more structure and organization from the Commission.

Kloster: In response to the public comment, noted the work session scheduled for March 31, 2021, to discuss the body worn camera draft policy.

Edenshaw: In recent months, the Commission has requested written reports from agencies prior to the monthly meetings. The Commissioners are working in a direction to provide more structure to the PSAC and requested some breathing room and time. Mentioned that APD provided a written report per the Commission's request this month.

Commissioner Edenshaw noted that comments such as the ones voiced by Erickson have been received from the public. Commissioners are attempting to figure out how best to organize the Commission and provide an opportunity for feedback. Since last meeting, PSAC received approval to create a Facebook page.

Kloster: Clarified that the agenda, minutes, and agency updates are uploaded to the PSAC website (within the Municipality of Anchorage). PSAC recently received approval from the Municipality to create a Facebook page.

Chair Kloster clarified that the role of PSAC is to present feedback to the Anchorage Assembly. In turn, it is the responsibility of the Assembly to utilize feedback when creating policy.

Edenshaw: Mentioned the current vacancies within the Commission.

Commissioner Comments:

- None

Next meeting: April 21, 2021, 6:00PM

Adjournment: 7:26PM

PSAC REPORT

3-17-2021 Meeting date

Prepared by Lt. Gina Burington, Anchorage Police Department

COVID – As in the recent past, we are continuing to manage exposure and cases among employees. Staffing has been maintained at an acceptable level.

VACCINATIONS – APD recently provided several days of availability for interested employees to be vaccinated at Department locations.

Crime Stats – Reminder, here is a link to published stats:

<http://www.muni.org/departments/police/stats/pages/default.aspx>

4th quarter stats have been published.

APD Academy – Academy 20-2 is about halfway complete. I had the opportunity to participate in some reality-based scenario training with them this week. Lots of learning happening. Graduation is scheduled for June 3rd.

Training Center – The Jewel Lake Training Center is currently being updated and refreshed. JLTC was opened in the mid-90s and has mostly been untouched during that time.

APD Co-Response – Co-Response has been featured in recent articles/videos.

<https://www.adn.com/sponsored-content/2021/03/10/alaskans-in-crisis-often-get-tangled-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUbb_ChLgZo

Meeting info – Captain Case will be joining us for agenda items relating to Academy training and any follow up questions on body cams. If you have any questions you can always email me in advance of the meeting: gina.burington@anchorageak.gov



Public Safety Advisory Commission

Update from the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

March 17, 2021

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Highlights:

- Day 378 of the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA) response to the covid-19 pandemic
- Current emergency orders can be found here: <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/emergency-orders>
- COVID-19 response efforts managed at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continue to support the local public health response in the following areas: congregate and Non-Congregate sheltering, isolation/quarantine sheltering, covid-19 sample collection (testing), vaccine administration, and emergency staffing.
- EOC staff continue to work mostly from remote locations due to the ongoing pandemic, however the EOC remains fully effective and operational in support of the local covid-19 response.

Sheltering

- 1.) Sullivan Arena congregate shelter site continues to operate near capacity
- 2.) Additional congregate shelter at Fairview Rec Center (max capacity 49 clients)
- 3.) Non-Congregate shelter sites (hotels)
 - a. Site 1 (20 rooms) - transitional shelter between Sullivan Arena and longer-term housing
 - b. Site 2 (24 rooms) - transitional shelter between Sullivan Arena and longer-term housing
 - c. Site 3 (153 rooms) - Sullivan Arena overflow site
 - d. Site 4 (67 rooms) – Sullivan Arena overflow site
 - e. Quarantine/isolation sheltering Site (full facility 129 rooms) - Non-Congregate shelter site for persons experiencing symptoms consistent with covid-19, and/or confirmed covid-19 positive

Covid-19 sample collection

- 4.) Visit Healthcare contractor brought on as a contractor to expand local sample collection capabilities
 - a. Please visit <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/testing> - for the latest site locations and schedules
 - b. Visit Healthcare has 5 staged drive through sample collection sites
 - c. Have done sample collections of critical populations including assisted living facilities, restaurant/bar workers, grocery store workers, etc.
 - d. Additionally offering “pop up” sample collection sites at different locations around town, mostly local schools to help support ASD. All site info is online.

Vaccination roll out:

- 5.) Local vaccination efforts by the MOA
 - a. Anchorage Health Department (AHD) is the MOA's requesting agency, and administering limited number of vaccinations at the public health clinic and small remote sites



- b. MOA-based point of dispensing (POD) set up at the Blood Bank of Alaska, structured for strike teams to also administer vaccines at specific sites when/where needed
- c. All of these have been set up for ALL phases availability now
- 6.) EOC has stood up additional branch in Operations section to help manage local vaccine effort
 - a. Coordination with the State
 - b. Staging strike team trailers
 - c. Exploring facilities for public vaccination PODs, both indoor and drive-thru sites
- 7.) Latest tier open to the public for receiving vaccinations
 - a. Clinics and health care providers request vaccine from the State and administer at their settings
 - b. From Girdwood Clinic all the way north through Eagle River/Chugiak
 - c. The latest on vaccine eligibility can be found here: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAvailability.aspx#now>
- 8.) MOA has brought on a contractor to help set up additional sites for vaccination dispensing (also Visit Health)
- 9.) Websites for additional information
 - a. <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/vaccine>
 - b. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Pages/vaxpacket/default.aspx>
 - c. <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/distribution/index.html>

Additional Highlights from the response:

- 10.) Public information officers continue to do an awesome job with:
 - a. Keeping the public informed on local and state emergency orders
 - b. Muni's covid-19 response website including information on local resources and covid-19 data
 - c. Creation of infographics and informative messaging to keep public informed
 - d. Distribution of covid-19 yard signs
- 11.) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) staff currently in transition from EOC response roles, back to OEM jobs in planning, training, exercising, mitigation, etc
 - a. Upcoming project to update Hazard Mitigation Plan (grant funded)
 - b. Training and exercise schedule update
 - c. Ongoing training for OEM/EOC/MOA staff