

MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting

September 9, 2020
Teams Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Erich Reed
Sharon Chamard
Garry Gilliam
Amber Fullmer
Emily Edenshaw
Kendra Kloster
Charlene Apok

Members Absent

Andalyn Pace

Representatives Present

BC Mike Davidson, AFD
LT Burington, APD
Andrew Preis, OEM

Call to order Meeting called to order at 4:38 pm, quorum present.

Reports

AFD, Battalion Chief Mike Davidson

- Recruitment ends Sunday September 9th. Information on Muni.org and on our AFD Recruitment Facebook page. Mia Carson has been putting together live videos to answer questions. Outreach efforts during COVID have been more difficult.
- Continued challenges of the pandemic. Have been able to overcome them here at AFD and are well equipped to handle COVID positive people in the community safely.

Apok: One question asked largely across the municipality, people are trying to get a grasp of demographics of those who have been applying and getting hired. APD has been unable to pull that information and provide information about how many recruits are people of color. Hearing inquiries through bodies such as the Equal Rights Commission.

Davidson: Great questions, I do not have the expertise to answer with exact numbers but can check with training and recruitment to see if that information is available. Personally, it has been a big concern of mine. I have worked with the department for 23 years and can say that we have made strides over those years,

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and we have really tried to reach out to community to encourage people to apply. Barriers to entry have been reduced over the years for more to become firefighters. We do not require you to be a firefighter, we do require EMT1 at time of hire but not at time of application. Lots of social media presence at this time with recruitment. Unsure of the demographics, but I can say that they are not representative of the demographics of the community.

Fullmer: What's the process to test?

Davidson: Sometimes we get up to 1000 applicants. Start with written test to pare down to a reasonable number of recruits to move on to physical test. Physical test consists of firefighter like activities (dragging hose, lifting ladders, dragging weight). Clinics are put on for practice prior to testing. Candidates are then chosen to sit in a board interview. After that, select candidates are given a Chief Interview with Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs. If they pass that, we require physical, psychological evaluation, etc. Once they pass all these, they are sent to academy for 10-12 weeks. After passing the academy they are considered probationary firefighters for 1 year.

Edenshaw: Juneau partnered with the native corporation to design new apparatus. Who can we talk to?

Davidson: Fire Chief, DC Monfore and BC Paulson actually sent an email this afternoon regarding this. They wanted to ensure that you knew that it is being discussed and would love to pass your information along.

Edenshaw: There is a community aspect of it, ANHC would love to partner on this with funding, outreach, etc. We can engage the native community and use it as an opportunity to engage.

Kloster: Have been discussing with BC Wescott.

Kloster: Do you reach out to the schools for recruitment?

Davidson: Prior to COVID we did a lot of outreach with schools. We do have an Explorer Program where young people can come to learn about what we do. Currently on hold due to COVID. Typically, also go to job fairs and reach out in all the traditional ways, however our best recruitment is usually members of the community who have connections with other areas of the state. A lot of times our challenge is getting into the communities and getting there with someone that the communities can identify with.

Apok: Are we being affected by fires in lower 48?

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Davidson: Currently have 2 people deployed to Colorado and California. We don't have a huge contingent of people out there, we anticipate them coming home soon. Luckily, we are at the end of our wildfire season and haven't seen a significant influx this year. Can get contact information from Ashley for additional questions.

APD, Lieutenant Burington

- Mobile Intervention Team (see PowerPoint)

Fullmer: Plans to expand the model?

Burington: We are funded to hire another position, waiting for the position description to get updated in order to post. Chiefs did discuss Crisis Now in the most recent Public Safety of the Whole meeting.

Chamard: Is this for homelessness, does this replace CIT (Crisis Intervention Training),

Burington: MIT takes that one step further. Working internally to designate specific CIT officers on each shift to coordinate those kinds of calls that are happening. Not specifically for homelessness, but for people who are experiencing mental health crisis.

Chamard: How do dispatchers determine CIT or MIT response?

Burington: Officers in MIT are limited by hours, but will take CIT and MIT calls when available, and when they are off shift those calls are routed to CIT officers.

Fullmer: All officers are not required to go through CIT training?

Burington: In academy they all receive an abbreviated training, but not the full 40 hour intensive training. We have found it to be better for them to get that full training once they've spent some time seeing the types of calls we take.

Edenshaw: Demographic, culturally relevant treatment options?

Burington: Malina will get in touch.

Apok: Small group doing an immense amount of work. How can we support it having more 24 hour services? Would also like more information on the Crisis Now model.

Burington: Picked this topic this month because I can see where the vision of the commission is going. MIT is it's own line item on the municipal budget and we would appreciate the commissions support on continued funding. Concern that because they have been unable to hire 3rd person we may lose funding for that position.

Edenshaw: Virtual Coffee with a Cop?

Burington: I have passed that on to MJ but have not followed up, will get an update.

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Apok: Also, have heard a lot from the public about body cams update.

Burlington: Don't have any information but will collect information from Chief and Captain. Ultimately comes down to funding. Not only the hardware, but maintaining and records request, etc.

Edenshaw: Do we have demographic of people in MIT services? Do we have options to offer traditional healing and culturally relevant treatment?

Burlington: Will have Malina get in touch with information.

OEM, Andrew Preis

- EOC:
 - All full time OEM staff are fully engaged in the EOC. Continue to have fully operational staff. A lot of staff is currently remote, case counts went up 6 weeks or so ago, wanted to maintain functionality and keep staff safe as well. Had to purchase a few tech items, but for the most part fully operational.
 - Case counts have increased in Brother Francis Shelter. We continue to find a few positives from here and there, but the majority of them have been located and quarantined, many have been considered recovered.
 - Providence has drive through on Lake Otis, continuing to conduct that.
 - Primary contractor for drive through is Visit Healthcare, have been staffing and running 5 other drive through sites on behalf of the muni. Also sample collections at critical populations such as assisted living. Average turnaround is 72 hours. Exploring using a local lab to try to speed up those turnarounds.
 - Community masking efforts: Have been distributing cloth masks that we weren't anticipating getting, distributed 42,000, partnered with non-profits in the community. Just this week we received more of the same masks through federal DHHS. Working on plans to continue to work with groups who are still in need to help distribute.
 - Continue to move medical grade PPE to local medical community: gloves, surgical masks, gowns, etc. Continue to see a lot of restrictions in the normal supply chains for our local providers. Partnered with the state and their warehouse to get the PPE out to our Anchorage based medical providers. Currently distributed to 100,000+ items of PPE.
 - Public Information Officer at EOC, one at Health Dept, several out of Mayors Office. All team up to get information out to public. Work with SOA emergency center and SOA PIO. Work hard every day to keep COVID website up to date. Working on infographics to go out to public shortly, currently in final review.
- OEM:

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- Grant offered annually from FEMA through SOA to MOA that helps fund staff salaries and benefits. Proud recipient of that again this year moving forward. Transitioned one EOC worker to full time OEM staff.
- PIO is planning for Great Alaska Shakeout – Earthquake drill
- Opportunity for community to talk about disaster preparedness, learn about how to prepare and recover from earthquakes.

Apok: Would you be able to speak to what is happening with COVID in jails, McLaughlin, detention centers, etc. If not, who can we talk to about that?

Preis: State DOC systems such as McLaughlin will likely be best answered by DOC officials. Can speak to Anchorage Jail, they have adhered to all recommendations.

Apok: No overlap with State DOC and your office for local facilities?

Preis: We try to overlap where we can, such as deployment of PPE. But for the specific facilities such as TSIA, that was a state push. We were mildly involved, but primarily state.

Apok: Who decides to whom the bids are awarded, in regard to out of state bids?

Preis: Generally, how it works is we write up Scope of Work regarding what we wanted to see in the drive through locations. Worked with Municipal Purchasing for bids. We received both local and out of state bids. When bids received, they look first at whether the organization meets the requirements, then will look at the price. Attempt whenever possible to hire local but isn't always the case.

Apok: No prioritization for local if lower price is available?

Preis: Will have to defer to purchasing.

Chamard: Glad to see more testing sites but do have comment about facility at Fairview Rec Center. Schedule on SOA site doesn't appear to match actual open hours. May need to be updated. Also may want to think about best ways to get the word out. Doesn't appear to have a lot of people to be using the location.

Reid: Echo Sharon's comments. As a resident of Fairview who did contract COVID, I did not know there was a testing site here. The only location that seems to get the media attention is the one on Lake Otis.

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Preis: Encourage everyone to go to the COVID website to gather information but will definitely talk to PIO about getting information about the site out to the public.

Minutes: August minutes approved.

Old Business

- Nominations for Chair:
 - Erich Reid nominated by Sharon Chamard
 - Charlene Apok also nominates Erich Reid
 - Erich Reid accepts nominations
 - Called to vote: All in favor: all aye
 - All not in favor: none abstaining
 - Erich Reid nominates Emily Edenshaw as Co-Chair
 - Emily Edenshaw accepts nomination
 - Called to vote: All in favor: all aye
 - All not in favor: none abstaining
- Ashley to set reminder to vote on chair and co-chair again in 10 months.
- Erich will send Bylaws out in google doc for everyone's understanding. Inconsistencies that need to be addressed. We will likely need some revisions.

Kloster: Can we still discuss the date and time for the meetings?

Reid: Is now a good time for everyone?

Chamard: Commissioner Pace has always had a struggle with the current schedule. Would like to check with her to see if she's still interested and what time might be better.

Kloster: This meeting runs right into community council meeting, and if we continue on this evening will need to keep it so that we are done by 6:00-6:15

Chamard: Possibility of keeping Wednesday but transitioning from the 2nd week of the month?

Reid: How's the third Wednesday?

Appears to work for everyone.

Discussion on time of day. Commissioners agree to 6:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. No objections. Will reach out to Garry and Andalyn.

Edenshaw: Reports take a lot of time in the meeting. Can we look at restructuring

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the meeting so that we have time to cover the issues that we need to cover.

Reid: Yes, this is something we are scheduled to talk about in our planning session.

Kloster: Let's think about a location for meetings once we are back to normal in person meetings.

New Business

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Next meeting: October 21, 2020 at 6:00

Adjournment: 6:28 p.m.