

**DPS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2023**

**Meeting called to order at 12:15p**

Chair Will Gipson first initiates introductions around the room then thanks DPS on behalf of the Penn community for being visible during a challenging early semester, noting the terrorist attack in Israel and the ensuing military actions in Gaza.

**Rev. Gipson introduces Kathleen Shields Anderson, VP for Public Safety**

**DPS Updates:**

- Lieutenant Chris VanDerVort promoted to Captain of Patrol, UPPD
- Derrick Wood hired as Deputy Chief of Police Operations, UPPD

**Penn Co-Responder Pilot (CRP)**

- Focus on mental health response for Penn students
  - Police officer will respond with a social worker
- DPS will house 3 clinical social workers trained especially for working at/on Penn's campus and integrating into the community

**Kathleen Shields Anderson invites Captain Mike Belisairo and Lieutenant Joe Ferdman to discuss how the CRP was proceeding from the police standpoint**

- Initially began with a heavy review of past incidents UPPD officers have responded to of students experiencing mental health crises
- UPPD Officers all go through crisis intervention training, even prior to CRP

**Observations from CRP:**

- Uniformed police made some uncomfortable
- The co-responders were able to reduce the number of questions asked, and time spent, responding to these incidents
- Interactions with the co-responder allowed officers to be released from scenes faster which enabled them to respond to other police business

**What the CRP response looks like:**

- When officers arrived on scene prior to the Pilot, they would need to assess the situation then call the Protocol line. The Co-responder traveling with the officer cuts out the middle person and gets the student help more quickly.
- On scene during a Co-responder call: one (1) UPPD officer, one (1) mental health social worker, one (1) UPPD supervisor.
- Prior to the pilot program, officers typically spent an average of ~67 minutes per mental health crisis call, after the introduction of the pilot, they spend ~55 minutes per call.

**DPS hopes to establish the Co-responder program permanently**

The CRP is supported by many internal departments at Penn all of whom agree, adaptation is key and this pilot makes sense for the unique needs of Penn's urban campus

The Co-responder pilot is not a replacement for SHaC/Protocall/HELPLine. Each of those programs will continue to run as they did prior to the pilot program.

80% of students who were the beneficiaries of the Co-responder pilot program needed to take a leave of absence from Penn, indicating they were suffering from serious health issues. The program helps fill the gap between programs like SHaC which assists students in less acute situations.

#### **DPS/Allied Homelessness Outreach Ambassador**

- Still in the early stages of development but the first officer was appointed
- The purpose of the ambassador is to create connections with those experiencing homelessness in the University of City area and help connect them to resources for long term success
- The ambassadors will all ensure follow through with those who might be in need of the service
- Allied will deploy Outreach captains who will work closely with the University City District (UCD) Homeless Ambassadors

#### **DPS Hosted Homelessness Summit with the Social Equity and Inclusion Office**

- The summit helped connect all Penn resources that are available to help alleviate homelessness
- Included talking to local ministries to see how Penn can be more impactful in helping to address homelessness in University City

#### **DPS Community Outreach:**

- PAL Day at the Ice Rink
- Ben to the Shore
- Back to School Week
- National Night Out
- Torch Run for the Special Olympics
- Robeson HS Prom Mentorship Program

Meeting adjourned at 1:07p