

**These minutes are published in draft form and are
Subject to review by the PSRB at its
next meeting**

**University of Rochester
Public Safety Review Board
Minutes of Meeting
October 1, 2019**

Present: Holly Crawford
Rick Crummins
Tony Kinslow
Elizabeth Palermo
Francis Price (*via phone*)
Matthew Burns (*via phone*)
Robert Bones
Kathy Parrinello
Eldred Chimowitz
Jamal Holtz
Ela Kodzas

Absent: Christopher Fragassi

Guest: Chief Mark Fischer (DPS)

1. Administrative Matters

The Board welcomed its new student members, Jamal Holtz and Ela Kodzas, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2019 were approved.

2. DPS Update

A. Unholsterings and Armed Response

Chief Fischer summarized two unholsterings and one armed response since the last meeting.

i). The first unholstering involved a psychiatry patient armed with a pair of scissors at Strong Memorial Hospital. The responding officer directed the patient to drop the scissors; she did not comply and made threatening motions with the scissors toward the officer, who was about six feet away. The officer then drew his firearm. After dropping

the scissors and picking them up again, eventually the patient surrendered the scissors and the encounter ended without injury.

ii) The second unholstering occurred at the Brighton Health Complex, in the parking lot outside Strong Recovery. The officer encountered a man chasing another man and swinging a garden hoe at him. Fearing for the safety of the intended victim, the officer drew his weapon and demanded the suspect to drop the hoe. The suspect complied. After DPS handcuffed the suspect, Brighton Police took him into custody. In response to a question from a PSRB member, Chief Fischer stated that if the suspect had not complied and dropped the weapon, and if de-escalation efforts continued to fail, the officer may have been justified in firing to protect the life of the victim. Ms. Parrinello reported that BHC staff complimented the officer's response and expressed gratitude that he was there and armed.

iii). An armed response came following a report that a patient in psych ED was punching walls and acting violently and was armed with a shank (an edged weapon). Armed officers responded due to the presence of a weapon and threat of deadly physical force. By the time officers arrived the shank had been taken away by staff. The unit was cleared without injury.

B. Officer in Psych ED

Chief Fischer reported that the presence of an officer in Psych ED has "lowered the temperature" of the room and been well received. Staff report feeling safer in that environment as a result.

C. Training Update

Due to some departures and other circumstances, DPS now has five fewer armed officers than are currently authorized. A class of four officers is currently undergoing firearm training. DPS will be close to fully staffed with armed officers once the training is completed.

D. Follow-up to President Feldman's Decision not to accept RC arming proposal

i) A campus resource officer, Erin Vess, has been hired. So has an LGBTQ+ liaison officer, Laura Johnson. Both have been well received and are building relationships with students. Officer Johnson wears a rainbow-colored service ribbon, which has led to many conversations with students.

ii). A Student Advisory Board is in the process of being formed. Many undergraduates and six graduate students have asked to join. The Student Association will attempt to include as many students as possible and is hoping to have an initial meeting by end of October.

iii). An active shooter training video for URM has been produced and viewed widely. The University's Office of Communications is working on a River Campus version. First

year students received active shooter training during orientation. One member requested that Chief Fischer report in the future on the extent of training.

iv). Armed Supervisor access is going well. There have been no complaints.

3. IACLEA Accreditation

DPS is in the process of seeking accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). About 10-15% of campus programs have this accreditation, which is rigorous and requires a site visit by accreditors.

4. Open Discussion

There followed some short questions and answers for DPS on various topics. The following is a summary of what was discussed:

- Officers who unholster weapons are connected with the Employee Assistance Plan for counseling if they so request;
- In response to a question about training, Chief Fischer noted that if an officer must use a weapon against someone threatening deadly force, the officer is trained to shoot a person's midsection rather than an extremity. This is because an extremity is much more difficult to hit and in the event of a deadly force threat, the risk must be mitigated quickly.
- PSRB members will be invited to visit the Monroe County firearm training facility;
- There is no current plan to revisit the campus arming issue;
- Likewise there is no plan to reconsider body cameras, given the significant cost and privacy issues;
- Contact information for PSRB will be added to DPS website as an alternative way to make a complaint about DPS;
- Use of metal detectors in the hospital is being reconsidered in light of the new Emergency Department design;
- DPS will circulate to PSRB information about who has received active shooter training;
- ID card-checking continues at Eastman with fewer problems than at the beginning; still getting occasional complaints from faculty and students about showing ID.

5. Future Meetings

Jessica Guzman-Rea and Mercedes Ramirez Fernandez will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the University's anti-bias reporting system and related issues. Members of the Student Advisory Board will also be invited to share perspectives and ask questions.

Meetings will be scheduled quarterly and otherwise as needed.