



## Chicago Council on Mental Health Equity (CCMHE) – Deflection and Diversion Subcommittee

### MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 24th, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3032424110?pwd=dWtiWER4WERWZ2hsekpuQWpicWIEZz09>

Meeting ID: 303 242 4110

Passcode: CCMHE2021

- I. Welcome and Attendance – members in attendance are shaded gray  
Meetings will likely remain virtual through Winter 2022

Co-Chair	Name	Agency
Co-Chair	Dr. Rashad Saafir	Bobby Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center
Co-Chair	Stephen Brown	U of I Health and Hospitals
	Dr. Wilnise Jasmin	CDPH
	Fred Friedman	self
	DC Antoinette Ursitti	CPD
	Richard Rowe	Next Steps and CSH
	Rebecca Levin	Cook County Sheriff's Office
	Emily Cole	Cook County State's Attorney
	Eric Lenzo	Sinai Health Systems
	Joel Johnson	HRDI
	Lori Roper	Cook County Public Defender
	Jason Learner	Uchicago Urban/Crime Lab
	Esther Sciammarella	Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
	Nick Roti	HIDTA
	Dr. Sharon Coleman	IDHS - DMH
	Jac Charlier	TASC
	Rasauna Riley-Brown	DFSS
	Veronica Trimble	IDHS
	Felix Rodriguez	IDMH

## II. Public Comment – no requests for public comment

### III. Questions about CPD CIT Policy revisions

- Question:
  - # of recommendations focused on addressing questions. It feels odd to vote on a question.
  - Response: These recommendations were included because they were exactly what was written to ensure authenticity. The committee does not ultimately need to vote on it.

### IV. Deflection and Diversion resource inventory

- Co-Chair Intro:
  - Focus attention on how CCMHE can be most useful to City and CPD in terms of identifying diversion and deflection opportunities
  - Along with deflection/diversion, there are also opportunities for criminal legal system process education.
  - Want to ensure there is also a focus on prevention
  - Resources come and go. This city needs a system that can readily adapt to resources that are available both now and in the future. Would be interested to see from City colleagues where they see resources that are currently available for diversion/deflection
- Comment:
  - CARE Team is supposed to use resource guides based on location of interaction with individuals in the field. Before 911 is called, how can we reach individuals and link them to services?
  - **Follow-up:** City/CDPH can work to find out pricing mechanism/contract information of NOWPOW to see if it can be used by other partners.
- Comment:
  - Important to emphasize need to educate residents about what steps to take.
  - Many Chicago residents want to help, but do not know about other resources other than 911. Should focus on how to enlist right services/professionals to ensure we can achieve this goal.
  - Important to also recognize the challenges of offering assistance. Not everyone will accept services or help.
  - Need to ensure that individuals belongings are also taken care of if they are unable to remain in their place of residence
- Comment/Question:
  - Is NOWPOW available to the public? And would it be beneficial to have a demonstration for the CCMHE?

- Response: You need a subscription, but a demonstration can be arranged.
- There are multiple platforms, but NOWPOW has the most comprehensive list for Chicago.
- Comment:
  - NOWPOW is extremely expensive for providers. Unless funding agencies do not fund this for their delegates, specific access may be too pricy for individual organizations. Funding orgs are exploring whether NOWPOW subscriptions should be included in contracts.
- Comment:
  - Want to ensure that there are 1 or 2 contacts per a neighborhood. Needs to be branded as an alternative to calling 911.
- Comment:
  - CPD's Neighborhood Policing Initiative also utilizes NOWPOW.
  - NPI Officers are tailored to the issues in each district. Want to ensure dedicated Officers who are familiar with and accessible to individuals within each district.
- Comment:
  - There seem to be unique demographics to the 19<sup>th</sup> district which are reflected in behavioral health calls. Are there other districts where there are unique needs, and can you describe them?
  - Response: There are other specific trends in hospital districts as well.
  - County is engaging in conversations in regard to individuals being released from hospitals under unusual circumstances
- Comment/Question:
  - Often see young adult males experiencing extended pre-symptoms on Westside. Often these are individuals without family/guardian support. Guardianship is quite an expensive process. Has this been seen in other districts, and could this be a process that is prioritized/focused on?
- Comment:
  - Need to couple housing with these services as many who utilize these services are also experiencing homelessness.
  - **Follow-up:** There has been legislation passed pairing housing with recovery. Are state officials responsible for this, a possible resource to bring into these discussions?
- Comment:
  - CDPH has plans in new budget to create a more permanent solution for high utilizers.
- Comment:
  - Review of examples of Deflection resources.
  - Discussion about how City defines deflection.

- Want to ensure people know they can call 911 when needed and that a loved one will not always be arrested. This can be a discussion about public awareness campaign for Smart 911.
- Comment:
  - Need to ensure fair program evaluation of deflection pilots.

**V. Community Engagement**

- If your committee would like to engage in focus groups or engagement efforts, the City will support any efforts.

**VI. CCMHE subcommittee planning for 2022**

- Mayor's Office and CDPH will be working on 2022 Plan in December 2021. Will work through process for switching subcommittees and other processes.
- Members interested in co-chairing a subcommittee are encouraged to reach out.

**VII. Next Steps**