



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes

### MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVERSION TASK FORCE

**ARNITTA HOLLIMAN, CHAIR**

**Ald. Milele A. Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Ald. Chantia Lewis,  
Nicholas DeSiato. Stephen Hargarten, Cassandra Libal, Aaron  
Lipski, David Muhammad, Mary Neubauer, Joshua Parish,  
Jamaal Smith, Leon Todd, Nicole Waldner, Amy C. Watson,  
and Brenda Wesley**

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**Monday, November 8, 2021**

**3:30 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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This will be a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/958443429>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (872) 240-3412 and Access Code: 958-443-429.

**1. Call to order.**

*The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.*

**2. Roll call.**

**Present** 14 - Kovac, Coggs, Lewis, Muhammad, Parish, Smith, DeSiato, Hargarten, Holliman, Lipski, Neubauer, Todd, Watson and Wesley  
**Excused** 2 - Libal and Waldner

**Also present:**

*Aaron Cadle, Legislative Reference Bureau*

**3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from August 31, 2021.**

*The meeting minutes from August 31, 2021 were approved without objection.*

**4. Review of CCFN 210785, Resolution amending Common Council Resolution File Number 201519 relating to the MPD Diversion Task Force.**

*Members reviewed and discussed aspects of the resolution draft.*

*a. Extension of final report submission date*

*The submission date would be extended to April 30, 2022.*

*b. Task force name change*

*The task force name would be changed to Community Intervention Task Force.*

*c. Development of a mission statement*

*Mr. Lee said that members were to review member Lewis' mission statement, offer edits, and then take a vote on a final version to add into the enabling resolution.*

*Members discussed and reviewed the mission statements of members Lewis and Smith.*

*Member Lewis' mission statement read, "Our mission is to find new solutions to provide safe engagement to the public, while utilizing the resources we have to the highest and best use, while building public trust for the residents."*

*Member Smith's mission statement expanded upon member Lewis' version to read, "The Community Intervention Task Force will actively seek out new solutions that support community social, emotional, and physical well-being through prevention strategies, education, and direct service, thus building public trust for residents."*

*Members suggested edits to member Smith's mission statement to replace "direct" or "direct service" with "emergency" or "emergency response", amend "new solutions" to "alternative solutions" or "new and alternative solutions", add "for calls for service" after "new solutions", and to move and amend "thus building public trust for residents" to be at the front end of the mission statement to read "Committed to building public trust for residents" prior to the rest of the statement.*

*Member responses on the suggestions included not using the term "emergency" since the focus was to look at non-emergency responses, that the "calls for service" addition would directly address the purview of the task force, and to keep the public trust language (as an aspirational goal) at the end.*

*Member Lewis said that the task force can build upon member Smith's mission statement.*

*Chair Holliman said for members to submit their edits to clerk staff and for the task force to review and vote on the different versions at the next meeting.*

*d. Additional membership*

*Member Lewis said that the resolution would add an additional member from the community with extensive violence prevention experience and that Reggie Moore would be an ideal candidate.*

*Members discussed adding additional members to the task force to add more diversity, to include community representation, and to include Simmone Kilgore from the Office of Violence Prevention.*

*Mr. Lee commented. Work groups may be an option for the task force to pursue.*

*Work groups would be synonymous with assignment groups, would allow for membership and participation from outside of the task force, and would not necessarily be subject to the open meetings law. Subcommittees would limit membership to be only those from the full task force and would be subject to the open meetings law.*

*Member Kovac added that other task forces, such as the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity, operates with work groups; work groups would report to the full task force on its activities, reports, and memberships; and work groups may adhere to the open meetings law to involve the community or public.*

*Members said that new member candidates should submit their resumes for review, that the task force pursue establishing work groups, and that the addition of people could be achieved through the work groups.*

*e. Adding a prevention component*

*Member Lipski said that prevention component stemmed from member Parish's comment from an earlier task force meeting stating that prevention was cheaper and a more effective approach.*

*f. Other*

*There was no other discussion.*

**5. Review of task force structure, decision making, and recommendations process.**

*a. Outward communications*

*Member Lipski said that there should be cohesiveness, synergy, and commonality for any external messaging or communications made by task force members or departments.*

*Member Wesley questioned if something adverse had occurred.*

*Member Lipski replied no and that he wanted to just bring forward a precaution for task force dynamic purposes.*

*b. Workgroups*

*Chair Holliman said that the task force should pursue work groups to further its work.*

*Member Lipski said that there should be a single work group (data analysis or historic research) to study and identify the source of the problems, call types and responses related to the various non-emergency issues, and to identify gaps.*

*Member Kovac discussed having upstream, downstream, and work groups based on the various non-emergency issues.*

*Member Smith said that there should be a community outreach and engagement work group for inclusion and transparency reasons.*

*Member Hargarten said there should be three work groups: data, systems response, and community outreach and engagement.*

*Members debated between a vertical or horizontal structure for its work groups. A vertical model would be more traditional and more multidimensional. Example work group types would be data analysis and best practices. A horizontal model may be more appropriate due to the various non-emergency issues, work groups may be more unique and be based on their issue type, and each group may be doing its own data analysis and research.*

*Members Hargarten and Parish said that a vertical structure would be more appropriate since the desire was to have a holistic system response to meet all needs, that a system analysis would be better, and that calls for service on the front end entailed uncertainty.*

*Member Parish said that the task force should start with the Adult Planning Summary from 2018, that the study contained much research for the task force to absorb, that the study can be a foundation for the task force, that near term capacity could be identified, and that the task force can proceed to identify gaps.*

*Chair Holliman said that the Adult Planning Summary would be presented at the next meeting, that members send their work group suggestions to clerk staff, and for members to review those suggestions at its next meeting.*

*c. Other*

*There was no other discussion.*

**6. Review of research on comparable cities and best practices.**

- a. Police diversion programs in other cities.*
- b. Other*

*This item was held with consensus from the task force.*

**7. Next steps.**

- a. Next meeting date and time (Monday, November 29, 2021 at 2 p.m.)*
- b. Agenda items for the next meeting*
  - i. Presentation on HSRI Milwaukee Psychiatric Crisis Service Redesign Phase 1 Adult Planning Summary*
  - ii. Presentation on the Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) program*

*Member Smith said to add an agenda item on the Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative in Atlanta, GA, due to Atlanta being very comparable to Milwaukee in terms of demographics.*

**8. Adjournment.**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.*

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant  
Council Records Section*

*City Clerk's Office*

**Meeting materials can be found within the following file:**

[210555](#)

Communication relating to findings, recommendations and activities of the MPD Diversion Task Force.

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR