



SCHUYLER COUNTY POLICE REFORM & REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE – STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Tim O’Hearn – County Administrator (CHAIR)
Sheriff William Yessman
Undersheriff Breck Spaulding
Lieutenant Todd Day
Lieutenant Matt Maloney
Joe Fazzary – District Attorney
Wesley Roe – Public Defender
JoAnn Fratarcangelo – DSS
Shawn Rosno – Community Services/Mental Health

Chris Rosno – Probation
Steven Getman – County Attorney
Kristin VanHorn – Planning
Carl Blowers – Chair, Schuyler County
Legislature
Gary Gray – Schuyler County Legislature
Mark Rondinaro - Schuyler County Legislature
Peggy Scott – United Way
Tony Vickio – Spirit of Schuyler
Michael Hartney – Faith-Based Community

MEETING NOTES:

- Tim O’Hearn did introductions asking everyone to introduce themselves and the role they served on the committee.
- Tim provided an overview of the initiative and the steps that have been completed to date.
- Community Presentation – Overview was presented by Sheriff Bill Yessman and Kristin VanHorn to gather committee input.
 - Crime Stats
 - JoAnn asked if there had been a larger deep dive into the data and demographics and how they relate to the overall county.
 - Community Survey
 - Kristin went through the community survey results from the survey that was conducted in November 2020. In total 180 responses were reviewed and represent each municipality in the county.
 - JoAnn asked if we knew the demographic for the people that participated in the survey – this was not something that was asked.
 - Community Discussion Topics
 - Use of Force:
 - Michael asked about the stats for how often there are use of force complaints or how often they are reported. – The Sheriff indicated that in 2019 they reported 12 times that there was a use of force but represent a variety of situations.
 - Michael asked if there are different guidelines around the use of force when responding to a mental health incident or crisis. – There are not currently any different regulations.
 - Shawn provided additional background on how the care managers and caseworkers respond to these types of situations.

- De-escalation:
 - JoAnn noted that DSS has had very positive experiences when working with the deputies in this area.
- Diversion
 - Chris asked for additional information about how alcohol/substance abuse referrals are made. – Sheriff noted that they work closely with FLACRA and Catholic Charities to help make these referrals.
- Community Outreach
 - Mark encouraged us to include additional information addressing the outlying areas of the county in this part of the discussion or during the deployment section in response to some of the survey responses.
- Deployment
 - Provide a list and area size of the two zones to address the large size of the county.
 - Peggy noted that we should provide additional information on how large/rural the county is.
- Hot Spot
 - Joe gave additional examples of how the Sheriff works closely with the DA's office to provide increased patrols/investigation in areas of the county that may be seeing an increase in "activity"
- Violence
 - Mark asked if we should include additional information around helping victims of violence to increase community awareness of the Departments efforts.
- General Discussion
 - Michael asked if there should be a greater emphasis on our rural nature and the types of situations, we see here vs. what is happening in more urban areas.
 - Peggy noted that it was reassuring that the survey results were overall very positive.
- Next Meeting: January 21st at 1:00pm.