

Community Crisis Response Advisory Council Meeting

December 20, 2024

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Virtual

Meeting called by: Attorney General
Matthew J. Platkin

Facilitator: Tiffany Wilson

Member Attendees: Attorney General Platkin
Tiffany Wilson
Elizabeth Rebein
Liza Chowdhury
Patricia Teffenhart
Gantry Fox

Keyion Jones
Timothy Seplaki
Lakeesha Eure
Michele Calvo

Minutes

Opening Opening by Tiffany Wilson. Introduced Attorney General Platkin

Opening Remarks by Committee Chair, Matthew J. Platkin, NJ Attorney General:

Thanked everyone for serving on this council and for all their hard work. Discussed the legislation and how the committee will help advise on best practices, and how this work will evolve. Appointed OACR Director Tiffany Wilson as his designee on the committee and his designee as Chair and OACR Deputy Director Elizabeth Rebein as her backup.

Introduction of CCRAC Members

Tiffany Wilson – Attorney General’s designee as Chair and also a member of the Council and Director of the Office of Alternative and Community Responses. Echoed the AG’s words of how important this work is to OAG as well as OACR. Discussed the commitments of the Council.

Liza Chowdhury – Executive Director of Reimagining Justice Inc/Paterson Healing Collective. Najee Seabrooks who is one of the namesakes of this bill was one of their staff members, a long-time community member, and someone close to her.

Gantry Fox – Director of Operations at Salvation and Social Justice. Responsible for development and implementing of operational policies and procedures throughout the organization.

Keyion Jones – Community Response Director for Salvation and Social Justice. Handles community response, manages the street team and, soon to be, Overdose and Mental Health Crises Response Team.

Timothy Seplaki – Department of Health, Division of Disaster Preparedness Resilience and Emergency Medical Services. Serving on Council for Deputy Commissioner of Public Services, Kelly Anderson-Thomas. Serves as Chief of EMS Data and Intelligence for the Division as well.

Michele Calvo – Designee for Greta Anschuetz, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of HIV, STD and TB Services. Executive Director of Opioid Response and Policy with the Department of Health. Oversees opioid overdose and substance use related initiatives including surveillance, policy and a variety of prevention programming.

Lakeesha Eure – Deputy Mayor for Public Safety in the City of Newark. Prior to being Deputy Mayor, was the Director for the Office of Violence Prevention and prior to that oversaw all violence intervention work in the city. Here by knowing Najee Seabrooks and wanting to change policies and build a bridge to help navigate this work.

Patricia Teffenhart – Inaugural Executive Director for the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA). Provides investments in community-based violence intervention programs, hospital based violence intervention programs, and trauma recovery centers. Oversees the Office of Trial and Criminal Justice Process, Victims of Crime Compensation Office and Victim Support and Assistance.

Discussion

Tiffany Wilson – Thanked public members for attending. Introduced Yolanda Melville, Director of Community Engagement and Miae Park, Acting Chief of Staff who were on the call.

A link for the bill for the Seabrooks-Washington Community-Led Crisis Response Act was in the invitation. Review the bill for the reasons behind why it came into being and also for what the job of this Council is going to be. Two things the Council is charged with is to provide the Department of Law and Public Safety with best practices and recommendations in the form of an annual report and to assess a pipeline to train and resource mental health screeners.

There are pilot programs throughout the State that will begin doing some of this work.

Responsibilities include meeting at least six times a year.

Do you have a particular expertise or contact?

Gantry Fox – Already discussed figuring out how CSG could be helpful after having this first meeting. CSG is interested in lending their help.

Liza Chowdhury – Recommended Dr. Pruden who is the Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness at St. Joseph's Hospital and partner in Paterson Healing Collective's HVIP. Suggested the family members or representatives of the family members of Seabrooks and Washington be on the council.

Timothy Seplaki - Has a Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council and a Medical Director Council, which oversee all of the paramedics in the States. He could be the liaison for that.

Tiffany Wilson – Council members are special state officers and are held to certain ethics rules. There will be some ethics requirements that you will have to complete. OACR will help coordinate training.

Introduced Liz Rebein and Roxanne Fattori of the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR).

2025 Meeting Schedule

Will be held virtually on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:00 except for the first meeting on January 22, 2025.

January 22, 2025
February 19, 2025
April 16, 2025
June 18, 2025
August 20, 2025
October 15, 2025
December 17, 2025

Tiffany Wilson – Suggests we invite Department of Human Services to our next meeting. There were no objections from the Council. On behalf of the Council she will extend that invitation.