



Cambridge Human Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014
5:30 – 7:30pm
Citywide Senior Center
806 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Commissioners present: Dr. Ayse Atasoylu, Christine Elow, Nan Stone, Katharine Emilie Thomas

Regrets: Christopher R. Hall, Kati LaBraico, Lori Likis, Khari Milner, Rev. Lorraine Thornhill

DHSP staff: Janice Alger, Mike Payack (recorder), Ellen Semonoff

Presenters: Lieutenant Daniel Wagner, Cambridge Police Department (CPD); Detective Michael Miceli, CPD; Detective William Phillips, CPD; and James Mulcahy, Legal Advisor, CPD

Guests: Brian Corr, City of Cambridge Peace Commission; Sumbul Siddiqui, community member

After a round of introductions, Lieutenant Daniel Wagner described Operation RASOR (Regional Analytics for the Safety of Our Residents). Operation RASOR is collaboration between Cambridge, Somerville, and Everett Police Departments. This collaboration arose due the observance of high incidence of cross-jurisdictional crime.

Operation RASOR is a community outreach and focused deterrence program consisting of a group of social service providers, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies working together to prevent serious and chronic offenders from engaging in criminal behavior and contributing to social harm. The program is based on the belief that offenders can be reformed given access to appropriate services and community supports.

Rather than being reactive (placing offenders on probation or parole), Operation RASOR aims to be proactive (identify high-risk individuals before they offend and prevent them from offending by connecting them with appropriate services). To this end, RASOR pulls data from all three participating police departments into one database. RASOR uses a Social Harm Index formula to identify high-risk offenders.

After candidates are identified, they are offered the opportunity to attend a community outreach meeting where they can learn about the program and are offered the opportunity to voluntarily enroll in the program. After enrolling, the candidate has a follow-up needs assessment meeting with a case management team, consisting of a coordinating service provider, community outreach worker, and a police officer. Program participants then work with their case managers to develop an individualized plan to identify and address the issues that are preventing them from living a crime-free life.

Detectives Miceli and Phillips presented a number of case studies and success stories from the program.

Mike Payack reminded the Commissioners that they are invited to join him at the Community Art Center's Creative Community Voices tour on Wednesday, December 17.

The next Human Services Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2015, and will feature a presentation on DHSP's Inclusion Initiative, by Nicole-Horton-Stimpson and Tiffanie Lillie.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Payack
Planner/Contracts Manager
DHSP/Planning & Development