

September 25, 2019

Mental Health Alliance

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare
Disability Rights Oregon
Mental Health Association of Portland
mentalhealthalliance.org

Dear Juan Chavez and Members of the Mental Health Alliance,

The BHUAC would like to thank Jason Renaud for presenting to the committee in March of this year on behalf of the Mental Health Alliance (MHA). This letter is in response to the request made by Juan Chavez on behalf of the MHA on February 13, 2019, that the Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Council (BHUAC) follow all public meeting recommendations in accordance with the Oregon Public Meeting Law (OPML) and allow members of the public to attend BHUAC meetings.

The BHUAC members took MHA's request and the Portland City Attorney's recommendation under advisement. We learned from the City Attorney that this meeting does not fall under the OPML. The BHUAC intentionally took much time and care to have robust conversations over several months and as a group decided to not take the matter to a vote. This means the BHUAC meetings will continue to be held in the current manner.

The BHUAC acknowledges the importance of transparency. The committee agrees with MHA's request to have the times, dates and locations of all meetings of the BHUAC be posted on the BHUAC webpage (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/68666>) at least ten days prior to the meeting.

The BHUAC further agrees to have an easily identifiable pathway for communication and feedback with the BHUAC and so an email (contactbhuac@gmail.com) will be in a prominent place on the front page of the BHUAC webpage.

The language and the spirit of Settlement Agreement (Agreement) between the City of Portland and the U.S. Department of Justice highlights the importance of community engagement with the PPB. The BHUAC members are also in full agreement that the committee should have a more public face and are committed to taking steps to achieve this goal. The BHUAC will have a draft plan of actionable items by the end of this year.

Sincerely,

The PPB BHUAC (Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Council)

Enclosures

CC:

Chief Danielle Outlaw

Mary Austad, Courtroom Deputy for Judge Michael Simon

Lt. Casey Hettman, PPB BHU

Tracy Reeve, City Attorney

Jonas Geissler, DOJ

Jared Hager, DOJ

Ashley Albies, AMAC

Kristin Chambers, AMAC

Janie Gullickson, BHUAC Chair