

**APPROVED**

**Fauquier County Board of Supervisors’  
Public Safety Committee  
Meeting of December 21, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Public Safety Committee Co-Chairman, Chris Granger, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**2. Introduction of Participants**

Present were:

- Mr. Chris Butler, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Lee District)
- Mr. Chris Granger, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Center District)
- Ms. Mary Leigh McDaniel, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Marshall District)
- Mr. Rick Gerhardt, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Cedar Run District)
- Sheriff Robert Mosier, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office
- Mr. Scott Hook, Commonwealth Attorney
- Ms. Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator
- Ms. Tracy Gallehr, County Attorney
- Ms. Brandie Schaeffer, Warrenton Town Manager
- Chief Darren Stevens, DFREM
- Mr. Jeremy Falls, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office
- Mr. Tom Marable, President, Fire and Rescue Association
- Mr. Mike Gilliam, DFREM
- Mr. Andy Marshall, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office
- Ms. Lisa Henty, Office of Management and Budget
- Mr. Jim LaGraffe, RRCSB
- Ms. Janelle Downes, Human Resources
- Chief Michael Kochis, Warrenton Police Department
- Ms. Shel Douglas, Department of Social Services
- Ms. Carrie Horvath, Human Resources
- Mr. Andy Johnson, PATH Foundation
- Mr. Tom Pavelko, Staff

**3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

Mr. Granger moved for approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Butler.

**4. Communications Statistics and Updates**

The Sheriff's Office communication statistics for the month of November 2020 were included in the meeting handouts. Supervisor Granger noted that DFREM calls for service were down slightly, which was confirmed by Chief Stevens. There were no questions or additional discussion.

**5. Embedded L.E. Mental Health Worker**

Sheriff Mosier introduced Jim LaGraffe, Executive Director of the RRCSB to brief the committee on the Embedded Mental Health Worker concept. Mr. LaGraffe advised that his staff has been meeting with members of local law enforcement in an effort to determine the best response to mental health crisis situations in which a police presence may not be necessary. In some cases, these crisis can be resolved more effectively with a mental health response. He indicated that Virginia already has a mobile crisis unit in place for juveniles in need of services. They envision a similar model for adults that would benefit from a mental health response rather than law enforcement. The Virginia Dept. of Behavioral Health seeks to implement these crisis units state-wide, which includes the development of a call center for reporting these situations. They intend to establish similar regional call centers by next summer. These regional centers will also take calls from dispatchers if they determine a mental health response is appropriate. The call center will then triage the level of response required and dispatch a mobile crisis unit if necessary. Virginia recently passed legislation known as the Marcus Alert System that will provide some funding for these programs. Mr. LaGraffe is hopeful that Planning District #9, will be the first to successfully implement the new legislation in the Northwestern Region.

Noting the anticipated constraints in future budgets, Supervisor Butler inquired about any local funding that would be necessary to support this program in the upcoming budget process. Mr. LaGraffe indicated that if the local CSB is selected as a pilot site for the Marcus Alert System, there will likely be funding attached. However, if not selected as a pilot site, funding could be delayed until a later date due to language in the legislation regarding annual disbursements. He is requesting a letter of support from the BOS and other stakeholders to be considered as one of the pilot sites and apply for the necessary funding from the State. All BOS members on the call were in favor of sending a letter of support to the State. Ms. Kozanecki will also check with Supervisor Trumbo to confirm his interest and draft the letter.

Supervisor Granger requested data from law enforcement and DFREM that would paint a better picture of what the County is facing in regards to the amount of these mental health responses that may occur in the future. Mr. Granger also inquired about participation from other counties in the planning region. Sheriff Mosier thanked Mr. LaGraffe and others who have been working diligently on this initiative. Mr. LaGraffe will update the County on future progress.

**6. Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Mr. Granger called for adjournment at 9:48 am. Generally concurred.

*Given under my hand this 5th day of January, 2021*

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*Thomas S. Pavelko, Staff to the Public Safety Committee*