

Village Manager's Alternative Call Response Taskforce

PHASE I – MENTAL HEALTH



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Overview

The Village Manager of Oak Park, Kevin Jackson, has established an Alternative Call Response Taskforce (ACRT) to continue to support the community safety project of Oak Park. The purpose of this taskforce is to bring to the table a wide range of experts, community members, and specialists to advise on an alternative call response model for Oak Park to specifically help individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

Governance

I. Structure

- A. The Taskforce is not a “public body” within the meaning of the Open Meetings Act and has not been designated as such by statute, ordinance, or resolution.
- B. The Taskforce members are volunteers and appointed by the Village Manager.
- C. The Taskforce is “advisory” in nature and does not take “actions” or have “deliberations” within the meaning of the Open Meetings Act.
- D. There will be no secretary appointed to keep the minutes of the meetings.
- E. Members are advised to forward any media inquiries to the Taskforce’s Staff Liaison. If there is a need to respond, the leaders of the Taskforce will provide the response.
- F. Taskforce members that are unruly, disruptive, and not working towards the common goal of the taskforce will be removed from the taskforce.
- G. Robert’s Rule of Order will be generally followed for the meetings. A simple majority vote, half plus one, will be required to make a decision.

II. Purpose

- A. The Village Manager’s Alternative Calls for Service Taskforce is an internal committee whose sole function is to advise the Village Manager on matters pertaining to the most suitable alternative calls for service model for the Village of Oak Park to specifically help individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

III. Goal

Make specific recommendations to the Village Manager regarding the best alternative calls for service model for the Village and the Oak Park Police Department regarding supporting those individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.



IV. Objectives

- A. Review and understand the “Essential Calls for Service Evaluation Report” drafted by Berry Dunn to determine if its recommendations are a viable alternative to Oak Park Police Department’s current response model.
- B. Review and understand Oak Park Police Department’s current alternative calls for service response model.
- C. Review and understand the different alternative calls for service models currently in use at various police departments across the country.

Roles and Responsibilities

The ACRT will have established roles that clearly define responsibilities and expectations. This will help provide clarity on the work ahead and ensure a united understanding of the crucial roles everyone has in the taskforce.

Facilitator	Maintain order, keep meeting running smoothly and on time, noting action items and cultivate inclusive meeting space.
Co-Chairs	Ensuring that agenda items are completed, spokesperson for the taskforce and main source of contact for VOP staff .
Presenters	Give thoughtful timely presentations, and provide opportunity for questions.
Taskforce Members	Consistently attend meetings, work collaboratively to meet taskforce goals, uphold DEI principles and stay solution focused.
Oak Park Staff	Will be responsible for overall project management, meeting logistics, note taking, and creation of final report.



Timeline

Date*	Meeting	Meeting Location	Purpose
October 7	Introduction of Co-Chairs	Virtual	Review taskforce plan
November 14	Introduction of Taskforce and Team-building exercise.	Village Hall	Meet and greet. Overview of goals and purpose. Listening session.
November 28	Education Session	Virtual	Learn about: the current state of Oak Park response, and Thrive + CESSA Law overview
December 12	Education Session	Virtual	-Berry Dunn Alternative response report presentation -Alternative Response Models (Cahoots, STAR, etc.)
December 19	Education Session	Virtual	Oak Park Police Response, Oak Park Fire Response and THRIVE
January 9	Education Session	Virtual	Denver's STAR program, McHenry County
TBD	Public Engagement	TBD	Listening Session
TBD	Working Session	TBD	DEI assessment tool
TBD	Working Session	TBD	DEI assessment tool
TBD	Working Session	TBD	Recommendations
TBD	Public Engagement	TBD	Update on Taskforce progress and listening session
TBD	Draft Report review session	Virtual	Review draft recommendations
TBD	Final Session	Virtual/ In person	Present recommendations to the Village Manager

***Dates are TBD contingent upon Doodle poll results regarding taskforce availability**



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Thinking through an alternative call response model for Oak Park must be grounded within diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). For the purpose of this taskforce, there will be three DEI principles that will help shape and support the development of the work.

Racial Equity

- By centering racial equity, the taskforce understands that race with other marginalized identities must be centered in this process to address the disparities racialized persons experience.

Listening and Learning

- The taskforce must commit to listening to one another, listening to community voices, and having an understanding that we all have much to learn from one another. No matter the professional background, education status, etc.

Innovation

- When serving marginalized communities' innovation is an essential DEI value to recognize that in order to address disparities will require creative solutions.

Meeting Facilitation Plan

To ensure maximum efficiency, the meetings will be facilitated by Dr. Danielle Walker, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Oak Park. She has a robust background in facilitation with a DEI-infused approach. Below is a brief overview of the facilitation plan.

Plan

- When possible, it is essential to plan and address any foreseen challenges that could derail progress for the taskforce. Typical challenges of any taskforce are as follows: time, competing priorities, personalities, and scope. Staffers from Oak Park have developed strategies to account for these challenges.
 - o An additional challenge that has been raised is racial equity is a high priority for the taskforce.



Parameters

- For each session, there will be session engagement guidelines. The facilitator will go over these parameters for each session.
 - o Those are as follows:
 - **Listen to understand not to respond**
 - **Share the talking space**
 - **Stay solution focused**
 - **Exit comfort zones**

Purpose

- As presented in the timeline each taskforce session has a distinguished purpose. Above the facilitator will ensure that each session remains on target. Which may include providing instructions on expectations for each meeting.

Point

- To be efficacious, especially with time, it is important that the taskforce always references (points) to the goals or tasks for the session. This ensures that the meeting stays on track and that the goals for that session are accomplished.

Prioritize

- Marginalized populations that are being served must remain a priority. This is a lot easier said than done, as serving the needs of others may look different than expected, or hoped for.

Progress

- Each session will provide an overview of current progress. To ensure each session is progressive in its respective goals there will be a project planner, a task delineation chart, and any other tools deemed to be helpful in ensuring that the taskforce is making measurable progress.



Appendix

Berry Dunn Alternative Call Response Report

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assessment Tool

