

# Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board

## Monday, June 27, 2022

### **Accountability Board members:**

Noah Patton	Present
Cynthia Gross	Present
Edward Kangethe	Present
Sonja Merchant Jones	Present
Doris Minor Terrell	Present
Lorraine Dean	Present
P. Logan Weygandt	Present

### **Johns Hopkins staff present:**

1. Branville G. Bard, Jr.
2. Liam Haviv
3. Rianna Matthews-Brown
4. LaTicia Douglas
5. Jennifer Mielke

### **Opening**

A regular meeting of the Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting was broadcast live via toll-free call-in and on the [Accountability Board meetings live-stream webpage](#).

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Branville Bard, Johns Hopkins' vice president for public safety, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Board member Ed Kangethe as the facilitator of the meeting. Mr. Kangethe thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting to the full Board for opening remarks. No remarks were recorded from the Board.

#### **2. Approval of May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Seven (7) Board members voted to approve the minutes.

#### **3. Board Governance**

Lorraine Dean motioned to postpone the Board governance discussion to a future meeting to allow the Board to discuss resources and membership in order to make more informed decisions around Board governance. There was discussion around the role that the University will play in agenda-setting, and there was agreement that agenda-setting should be a collaborative effort between the Board and Johns Hopkins Public Safety (JHPS) Administration. Seven (7) Board members voted and approved postponing the Board governance discussion to a later meeting, at the Board's discretion.

### **Resources Available to the Board**

- **Financial** – *Does the JHPD Accountability Board have a budget, and if so, what is the budget amount?*
  - Dr. Bard stated that the University will reimburse the Board for reasonable administrative costs (parking, copying/printing, email account, reasonable honorarium payments for guest speakers, etc.); however, a formal budget for the Accountability Board has not been established.
  - Will a budget be established, or will items be budgeted per request? (D. Minor-Terrell)
    - Dr. Bard responded that items will be budgeted per request; however, it may be possible to establish a budget.

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- Dr. Bard stated that reasonable expenses related to members' roles on the Accountability Board can be submitted to the University for reimbursement.
- The Board should consider establishing an annual budget upon evaluating expenses accrued over time. (P. Logan Weygandt)
  - Dr. Bard agreed that Dr. Weygandt's suggestion was reasonable.
- What would be a reasonable honorarium payment amount for a guest speaker, such as Frank Johnson, OMA expert, who presented at a previous Board meeting? (C. Gross)
  - Dr. Bard responded that guest speakers have different rates, and some are pro bono. Therefore, payment amounts will vary. Submissions for honorarium payments will be addressed per request.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown clarified that Frank Johnson did not accept an honorarium payment.
- Is it possible for the Board to receive documentation of expenses to date? (C. Gross)
  - Dr. Bard stated that Brian Corr, Former President of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), who presented at the Board's March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, was paid an honorarium. JH staff will provide that information at the next meeting.
- What is the process for requesting an honorarium for a guest speaker? (L. Dean)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the Board should identify and coordinate with the speaker and submit the honorarium request to JHPS Administration. Reasonable requests will likely be honored. In some cases, the University may identify speakers.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that honorarium requests should be submitted to LaTicia Douglas, Public Safety liaison to the Board. Ms. Douglas and Dr. Bard agreed.
- The Board should consider including in the bylaws how budgetary decisions will be made for requests that require resources. (L. Dean)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the bylaws should include that process.
- Is there currently a format for submitting honorarium requests? (D. Minor-Terrell)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the Board should submit those requests to LaTicia Douglas via email.
- Is it possible for JHPS Administration to share a template for honorarium requests at the next Board meeting? (E. Kangethe)
  - Dr. Bard stated that JHPS Administration will provide an outline at the next meeting.
- It would be helpful to implement a quarterly overview of the Board's expenses for public records and to avoid any conflict of interest. Because JH staff are currently tracking reimbursements, this should be managed by the department and eventually transferred to an adhoc committee of the Board. (N. Patton)
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that JH staff will provide a template for tracking the Board's expenses at the next Board meeting.
- **Legal** – *Will Board members be held liable if legal action is brought against the Board? Would the Administration indemnify members, or would members be held personally liable?*
  - The Board should discuss this with the Attorney General's office to clarify the standards for legal liability regarding state advisory boards. (N. Patton)
  - If there is not a hold harmless clause in the bylaws that protects Board members from personality liability, can one be added? (D. Minor-Terrell)
  - During the March 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, it was discussed that if things are being done in good faith, there is unlikely to be any legal or financial penalty. This should be considered in terms of legal protections. (P. Logan Weygandt)
  - Will free legal counsel be available to the Board if legal action is brought against members, and is there a clause in the bylaws that protect members from legal liability? (D. Minor Terrell) (C. Gross)
  - Legislative counsel could assist with the review of department policies and other matters. (N. Patton)
    - Dr. Bard recommended that the Board obtain guidance from the Attorney General's office on whether members can be held personally liable and regarding independent counsel. The

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University is willing to reach out to the AG's office with these questions and provide a response to the Board. If the Board would prefer to reach out, Dr. Bard asked that they inform the JH staff of their decision. The University will need to discuss independent counsel internally and follow up with the Board as soon as possible.

- If the Board operates independently and offers true accountability, that may require resources outside of what the University provides. (L. Dean)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the Board and the University should have a collaborative partnership. The Accountability Board operates in an advisory capacity and is not entirely separate from the University.
  - Dr. Bard stated that the University will cover costs related to Board members setting up separate email accounts, if any costs are incurred.
  - There are concerns that Board members' personal email accounts could be subject to legal discovery and Open Meetings Act guidelines if used for Board business. (L. Dean)
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that:
    - The Open Meetings Act does not grant access to Board members' emails; the Maryland Public Information Act governs access to materials. If there are questions about public access, it is recommended that the Board seek guidance from the Attorney General's office;
    - JH staff has looked into whether individual Hopkins email accounts could be set up for Board members and found that we are unable to set up accounts for non-Hopkins affiliates;
    - As a reminder, a weekly digest will be emailed to the Board on Monday mornings. All emails received for the Board will be compiled into one document and emailed to the Board weekly.
  - Two emails were forwarded to the Board in the past; however, it is unclear whether the senders received responses. (C. Gross)
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that JH staff acknowledged receipt of the two emails and forwarded them to the Board. JH staff will continue to acknowledge receipt, and the Board must decide how to respond to email content. No additional emails have been received to date.
  - The Board discussed adding a process for responding to emails to future meeting agendas.
- **Personnel** – *Which JH staff directly support the Board, what are their roles, and how much of their time is allotted for Board support?*
    - Dr. Bard stated that typically, staffing for advisory boards is provided by the agency. JH staff will research how other MD state advisory boards are staffed and follow up with the Board
    - Dr. Bard provided the following overview of the JH staff's responsibility to the Board. This list will also be emailed to the Board.
      - Jarron Jackson, Senior Director of Campus Safety and Security
      - LaTicia Douglas, Special Assistant to the VP for Public Safety, is the Board's primary point of contact and liaison. Please send all correspondence to LaTicia at [accountabilityboard@jhu.edu](mailto:accountabilityboard@jhu.edu).
      - Jennifer Mielke is the Board's Government and Community Affairs (GCA) liaison.
  - **The following staff are in the Office of the President and provide additional support to the VP for Public Safety as needed.**
    - Rianna Matthews-Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff
    - Liam Haviv, Senior Researcher

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- Dr. Bard introduced Jennifer Mielke, Director of Local Government and Community Affairs (GCA), to the Board. Ms. Mielke works with other JH staff on matters at the local government level.

### Updates from Dr. Bard

#### • **Behavioral Health Crisis Support Team (BHCST)**

- Last year, several Board members joined listening sessions as the University was developing its new behavioral health initiative at Hopkins, the Behavioral Health Crisis Support Team (BHCST), an initiative that pairs behavioral health clinicians with specially trained public safety officers to provide immediate in-person assistance to individuals experiencing a personal crisis.
- The program launched in November 2021 on and around the JHU Homewood campus.
- Initially, clinicians served in designated shifts, but once fully staffed in March 2022, the BHCST became a 24-7 service.
- In the coming months, we will make several enhancements to the program, including:
  - Establishing a dedicated phone number for individuals to directly contact team members and
  - Expanding to the Peabody campus in Mount Vernon this fall and then East Baltimore over the next year.
- Before any program expansion, the community will have an opportunity to meet team members, learn more about program outcomes, and share feedback.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown noted that Ed Kangethe had reached out with helpful questions about the expansion process. Rianna confirmed that The BHCST will be expanded to East Baltimore over the next year.
- If there is interest in learning more about this initiative, I am happy to invite the team to brief the Board at a future meeting.
  - Dr. Dean asked if a presentation on the BHCST could be scheduled. Other Board members agreed that such a presentation would be helpful. Dr. Bard, Jennifer Mielke, and Rianna Matthews-Brown agreed and said they would be happy to set it up.

#### • **Johns Hopkins Police Department Next Steps**

- The two-year JHPD pause ended on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This does not mean there will be officers on the street next month. Several important steps remain before any JHPD officers can be hired. One of the first steps in the sequence will be establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Baltimore Police Department that will detail key operational policies for the police department. Legislation requires the following:
  - The draft MOU (memorandum of understanding) must be posted publicly for public comment on our website for 30 days, after which the City Council will have 30 days to review the draft and provide written comments;
  - The university must also host two public forums on or near the Homewood and Peabody campus and the East Baltimore campus before finalizing the MOU; and
  - If the University seeks to have off-campus jurisdiction in surrounding neighborhoods, we must obtain majority support from community members in that relevant community.
- The Board will participate in this process, beginning in the fall of 2022.
- The University will also work with an outside consultant, a national expert in 21st-century policing and progressive, university-based policing. Once the consultant is on board, we would like to schedule a time for the Board to meet with them. The Board will have ongoing opportunities to engage with the consultant, hear updates, and provide feedback on their work.
- Given the work to be done and the fact that many members of our community – not only students and staff but also many neighborhood associations – have limited availability in the summer months, public

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discussion of the MOU will begin this fall. At that time, we will share a draft MOU with the Accountability Board and our broader community, including our neighbors, for feedback.

- The goal is to complete the MOU by November/December 2022 to begin the application and onboarding processes for officers. Training will occur during the spring/summer of 2023. We expect to begin to see officers patrolling after summer 2023, as we expect it will take at least one year to implement the entire infrastructure of the police department.

### **Board Questions**

- Regarding the BHCST, define public safety officer? (C. Gross)
  - Dr. Bard stated that licensed clinicians take the lead and campus safety officers receive specialized training to assist with crisis events appropriately. The goal is to provide specially trained public safety personnel to provide immediate in-person assistance to individuals experiencing a personal crisis, not police officers. We have hired five licensed clinicians, a clinical supervisor, and a campus safety officer who has received specialized training.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that JH staff will resend the BHCST article to the Board, which provides additional background information on the program.
- Is it possible for the Board to receive data or metrics on the BHCST's activity? (N. Patton)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the BHCST has responded to approximately 50 calls, of which three involved non-Hopkins affiliates.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that most of the individuals were students, and there were non-Hopkins affiliates (recent graduates or individuals with a group of students).
  - The Board should consider having a BHCST representative present at a future Board meeting. (L. Dean)
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown asked the Board to inform JH staff when they would like to schedule a BHCST presentation.
- Regarding JHPD Updates, at what point will the Board be involved in the MOU process? (L. Dean)
  - Dr. Bard stated that the University will engage the consultant before starting the MOU process. The Board will be involved throughout the entire process.
  - Rianna Matthews-Brown clarified that the Board's role is in addition to the public process mandated in the statute.

### **Open Discussion**

- Seven (7) Board members voted and approved changing the meeting frequency to monthly for at least the immediate future.
- The Board discussed that the previous adhoc agenda-setting committee should remain in place to allow consistency for the next meeting.
- If additional Board members would like to join the adhoc agenda-setting committee, they are welcome to join. (E. Kangethe)
- Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that based on a previous email from Frank Johnson, OMA expert, the Board should ensure there is not a quorum of members on adhoc committees.

### **Closing**

- Ed Kangethe thanked everyone for their time and engagement. We will reach out with a poll to determine monthly meeting dates for 2022. The web hosting and call-in information will remain the same, and the agenda and materials will be posted on the [Accountability Board website](#). For anyone

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needing other accommodations, contact [AccountabilityBoard@jhu.edu](mailto:AccountabilityBoard@jhu.edu). The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

**Action Items/Next Steps**

- Reach out to the Attorney General's office about personal liability and public access to personal e-mails/materials

**Agenda Topics Proposed by Board Members for Future Meetings**

- Maryland Legislative Landscape, incl. Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and relevant changes
- JH's ongoing public safety interventions and efforts
- Further discussion on benchmarking / peer efforts
- Crime Data Tracking
- Discussion and Follow-up questions from JH Public Safety Town Halls
- Invite a CRB (Civilian Review Board) representative to discuss the CRB's relationship with the JHPDAB
- Legislative Review – What does the legislation say regarding our roles? (possibly Stephanie Smith speaker)
- Continuation of Bylaws discussion
- Membership Questions
  - Note: as of June, only 7 out of 15 currently on the Board

**Accountability Board Upcoming Meeting Schedule (2022 calendar year)**

- Quarterly Meeting: September 12, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting: December 12, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30pm