

**Regular Board Meeting
Police Accountability Board
May 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY
Livestreamed on Facebook (facebook.com/rocpab) & YouTube
(youtube.com/rochesterpab) & Twitter

Attendees

Board Members: Lawrence Knox (Chair), Arlene Brown (Vice Chair), Rabbi Drorah Setel, Rev. Keith Patterson, Yvonne Wilson, Mary E. Wambach, Daniel Cadet

Absent/Excused: William Clark

Staff: Sherry Walker-Cowart, Interim Executive Director, Benjamin Wittwer, Deputy Executive Director, De'Jon Hall, Director of Policy and Oversight, Delores Paige, Director of Case Management, Vanessa Cheeks, Press Officer, Tameka Jones, Community Engagement Manager, Victoria Harmon, Secretary to the PAB

ASL Interpreters: Heather Feinman and Shannon Tracy

Item	Details	Vote	Time
Start of Meeting	<u>Welcome & Introductions:</u> Chair Knox called the meeting to order and requested self-introductions. Board members and the Interim Executive Director introduced themselves.		6:32 PM
Approval of Prior Minutes	<u>Minutes:</u> April 4. Motion to approve the minutes made by A. Brown, with a second by D. Setel. Motion carried.	Unanimous	6:33 PM
Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAB made a presentation to the city council work group on the agency’s operations and activities. The presentation aimed to address misunderstandings about the PAB and pave the way for the budget hearing. • Highlights of the past year, including changes, improvements, accomplishments, and challenges, were discussed during the presentation. • The interim executive director emphasized the importance of pursuing additional collaborative opportunities with the members of the administration. 		6:34 PM

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	<p><u>Case Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of April 30th, 16 reports were received, with 3 already closed. A total of 157 cases have been received for the fiscal year 2024.• Currently, the case management team includes 3 full-time case managers managing a caseload of about 230 cases.• Case Managers completed a two-day P.E.A.C.E. (Preparation and Planning. Engage and Explain. Account, Clarification, Challenge. Closure. Evaluation) training. The training aimed to assist the case managers with the intake process and included mock interviews to help them prepare for handling reporters.• The Director of Case Management introduced the new bilingual case manager, Anna Lily Taylor, who joined the division on April 1st.• The Case Management division is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the fourth case manager position, with the goal of completing the hiring by the end of May. <p><u>Policy and Oversight:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Policy and Oversight division is in the process of analyzing feedback on the Protest Policy Proposal for Change and is waiting for feedback from a few board members.• The second oversight investigation is close to being concluded. The investigation focuses on disciplinary components of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).• There were discussions about the barriers faced by the Policy and Oversight division in obtaining necessary information and data from the Rochester Police Department and the City, emphasizing the impact of these limitations on the completion of thorough analyses and meeting		
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	<p>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in a timely manner.</p> <p><u>Public Affairs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Affairs division is planning a Know Your Rights training and workshop in partnership with the Public Defender’s office, with more details to be shared soon with the board and the public. • The PAB is currently hiring for multiple positions, with eight positions available on the PAB's website (rocpab.org) until May 25th or May 28th. The job listings have been shared on social media and through newsletters. • A spring newsletter will be sent out at the end of June. Members of the public are encouraged to sign up on the PAB’s website to receive important information. • Tamika Jones has been promoted to Community Engagement Manager. Originally hired as a community engagement specialist, Tamika's exceptional work in two months impressed the Public Affairs division, and the division decided to leverage her skills by offering her a managerial role. Tamika has been actively engaging with the community. <p><u>Investigations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Investigations division and board members have been very productive, having met three times since the last board meeting to review investigative reports and close cases. • Nine investigations were reviewed and closed, with a total of 15 investigation reports sent to the Chief of Police this month (May, 2024). • There has been one response so far among the 15 investigative reports, and we are looking forward 		
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	<p>to the rest. The Police Chief has 30 days to respond and that time has not be exhausted yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two closing reports were also reviewed today (May 2, 2024).• Challenges to pending investigations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ On the 26th, the PAB received a letter from the Chief of Police as well as a letter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. The letter outlined a policy that states that when the PAB does a misconduct investigation related to a criminal case, the police department will not provide any information until that investigation is completed, which will cause a delay in many of the PAB's investigations.○ On Monday, the 29th, the PAB received an email from Patrick Beath, City's corporation counsel, and Matthew Rich, the attorney for the Locust Club. This email was a response to the eight officers' subpoenas issued by the board during the previous meeting, requesting that they testify. The PAB was informed that none of the officers would be coming to testify. The Police Accountability Board (PAB) is still striving to conduct its first officer interview. These are some challenges the PAB is determined to overcome in order to continue progressing with our investigations.○ There is an ongoing policy and oversight investigation into the handling of mental health calls that lead to a person being detained by the Police Department, and the policy and oversight department is conducting an analysis to determine the frequency of such incidents. However, the Corporation Council has taken the stance that the police department will not		
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Chair's Report	<p style="text-align: center;">provide any information pertaining to mental health calls. This, in turn, has a significant impact on both individual investigations and policy analysis.</p> <p><u>Chair's Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair highlighted the barriers that the PAB has been encountering. These challenges to the agency's operations have been discussed for nearly two years. The board is encountering more cases where information is being denied, which hinders the board's ability to make informed recommendations. • The agency's concerns have been voiced in multiple meetings with the Council. In the executive session, there will be discussion regarding potential legal measures if the barriers remain unresolved. • The board continues to have multiple panel reviews, allowing the newer board panelists to participate in case reviews. • The search for a permanent executive director is ongoing, with more information to come later. • The agency is still working on hiring a training director dedicated to training the staff and board members. 		6:52 PM
Committee Reports	<p><u>Committee Reports:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Training Committee:</u> Discussed in the Chair's report</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Search Committee:</u> Discussed in the Chair's report.</p>		6:58 PM
Old Business	<p><u>Old Business:</u> No report</p>		7:05 PM
New Business	<p><u>New Business:</u> No report</p>		7:05 PM

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<p>Executive Session</p>	<p>ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion made by L. Knox with a second by D. Setel to adjourn to executive session.</p> <p>During the executive session, the board held two votes on two matters. First vote was six in favor and one abstention. The second vote was five in favor, one recusal and one abstention. These were all the votes taken in, in executive session in regards to subpoenas and motion to adjourn.</p> <p>End of meeting</p> <p>NEXT BOARD MEETING: June 6, 2024</p>		<p>7:06 PM</p>
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