

City of Boulder
Police Oversight Task Force
Research Design

Research Purpose

The task force will study different models of police department oversight boards which are comprised exclusively or largely of community members in order to determine which models or aspects of such boards are most appropriate for the city of Boulder. Note: The task for has 6 remaining scheduled meetings (7/25, 9/1, 8/15, 8/29, 9/12 and 9/26).

Research Process*Phase 1: Knowledge Building*

The purpose of Phase 1 is to explore what is happening internally and externally regarding police complaint processes. The committee will look at current complaint practices in the Boulder police Department (BPD) and externally – NACOLE and potentially NACOLE members. Phase 1 process is as follows:

- Learn about the current BPD complaint process
- Gain an understanding of the civilian role on the Professional Standards Review Panel. (PSRP)
- Gain an understanding of the police role on the PSRP
- Investigate different civilian oversight models

Completion Date: On-going. The task force will continue to utilize resources as the situation demands.

Phase 2: Data Collection

The purpose of Phase 2 is to capture ideas from the community regarding their needs for an oversight board. The National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) emphasizes the importance of “engaging community and government actors.” Data collection involves interviewing a broad spectrum of community members. Phase 2 activities include the following:

- Identify people in the community to interview.
- Create a spreadsheet that identifies who to interview, contact information and the interviewer.
- Design an interview guide. **(completion date July 22 5:00pm)**
- Every task force member interview five people.

Interview Completion Date: Complete interviews and submit interview forms to SharePoint no later than 5:00pm on July 29.

Phase 3: Data Synthesis

The purpose of Phase 3 is to develop a mechanism to synthesize the data collected. Phase 3 activities include the following:

- Design an input form to record the interview. Stress the importance of printing or writing legibly.
- Scan the interview form and submit to SharePoint.
- Transcribe the interview forms and create one document. Organize data by interview question e.g. all responses to question #1 recorded together.

- Format the document for review by the task force.

Completion Date: Carolyn, Aimee and Pam will consolidate data no later than 1:00pm August 1.

Phase 4: *Meaning Making*

The purpose of Phase 4 is to review the data collected and take note of the emergent themes. What needs are expressed by the community? Note: it is imperative that the interview questions yield the information the task force needs to determine the best options for an oversight board. Activities in this phase include:

- Identify the emergent themes that inform the task force recommendations about structure and responsibilities of an oversight board. Note: structure includes the number, qualifications and manner of appointment of oversight board members. Responsibilities include investigative powers and decision making authority.

Completion Date: August 1 task force meeting

Phase 5: Putting it all Together

The purpose of Phase 5 is the consolidation of information received through investigating models in other locations, investigating current processes (BPD complaint process and PSRP) data collection and reading material to identify potential structures for an oversight board. At the end of this phase, the task force is positioned to make initial recommendations to City Council.

Completion Date: August 15 Task Force Meeting

Note: City Council check in sometime after the August 15 task force meeting.

Outstanding Research Questions

1. Projected budget
2. Staffing of an oversight board (depending on the model(s) selected)