

Recommendation xx: MPD should collect and document information pertaining to the work of the CPT either through daily logs or through such other data collection methods that the department deems appropriate that generate comparable data. [OIR 47]

Discussion: OIR recommended that MPD have its Community Policing Team (CPT) officers prepare daily activity logs, to obtain a better record of what these officers are spending their time doing. OIR noted that such documentation could be used both for performance evaluation of individual officers and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of what CPT officers are doing in the various districts. OIR noted that there was inadequate documentation of how specialized officers, including CPTs, were performing the problem-solving functions of their job. Moreover, in the case of CPTs, it is critical to gather such data to track and evaluate the work of CPTs in order to ensure fidelity to their stated community policing mission and application of best practices of community policing (see Recommendation xx [OIR 46]).

MPD's position was that daily activity logs might be cumbersome and not provide data that could be aggregated in a useful fashion (while OIR argued that such logs need not be overly burdensome). However, MPD was in support of getting a better picture of officer activity. Assistant Chief Vic Wahl apprised the Committee of the activity tracking practices that had been in use: "the individual [CPT] teams are collecting data, typically on a weekly basis, compiling it for the team. So not through the mechanism of a formalized paper daily log form that they fill out, but the sergeants will typically compile summaries of their activities. And then, in addition to that, we have some of our other data sources that we can extract CPT activities from like CAD data.... CPTs do have not logs but they have databases that they enter data into to capture and track some of their activities.... [T]here's a number of topics and categories of activity that we track."

The Ad Hoc Committee agrees with OIR on the need to much better document CPT activities and on the importance of narrative-form information for documenting problem-oriented policing activities (data that cannot be adequately captured by a system that only tracks general types of activities). In response to MPD concerns and consistent with Recommendation xx [OIR 38], the Committee amended this recommendation to allow MPD to capture this data "either through daily logs or through such other data collection methods that the department deems appropriate that generate comparable data." See also discussion of related issues in Recommendation xx [OIR 39].

In its November 2018 updated reply to the OIR report, MPD noted: "The department has modified/improved the logs used to track community policing team activities. Community Policing Teams have started to use these logs as a pilot, and after several months the department will evaluate them. In addition, we are exploring additional incident types/codes that can be used to improve tracking of all officer work through the CAD [Computer Aided Dispatch system]."