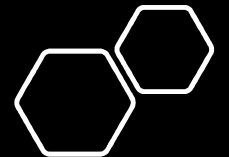




ONE AUSTIN
SAFER TOGETHER
AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Collective Sex Crimes Response Model (CSCRM) Project

Austin Police Department



Introduction & Background

The Austin Police Department's (APD) Sex Crimes Unit (SCU) has experienced many challenges in the last decade, including:

- 2017: Systemic issues in its DNA lab that ultimately led to its closure;
- 2018: The withdrawal of APD from the Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (A/TC SARRT);
- 2018: An investigative report that highlighted APD's improper use of Exceptional Clearance in the closure of sexual assault cases;
- 2018 & 2020: Two class-action lawsuits filed against the city for the improper handling of sexual assault investigations (Smith v COA, Senko v COA); and
- 2022: Over 100 recommendations for change on the way sexual assaults reported to APD are investigated and processed per a comprehensive, multi-year assessment conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

Timeline



Project Framework

Objectives:

- Establish a model that will result in systemic and lasting change
- Strengthen trust and transparency through a collective and collaborative approach
- Engage community advocates and subject matter experts (SMEs).
- Align expertise with the work at hand
- Ensure checks and balances are built into the project

Scope:

- PERF report recommendations – 103 items
- Survivor lawsuit settlement – 16 items

Workgroup Model:

- 119 items of scope have been assigned to six Workgroups (WGs)
- Each WG is led by two co-chairs (one APD individual and one non-APD individual).
- RACI Model used to define who is Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed.



Project Members & Community Partners

- Engagement with community advocates and partners is a priority.
- Project Team includes 44 members:
 - APD Sworn (7 members)
 - APD Civilian (16 members)
 - Community Advocates & Partners (21 members)
 - Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA)
 - Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT)
 - CASA of Travis County (CASA)
 - Independent Subject Matter Experts (Ind.)
 - SAFE Alliance (SAFE)
 - Texas Advocacy Project (TAP)
 - Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC)
 - Travis County District Attorney's Office (TCDAO)
 - University of Texas Austin (UT)

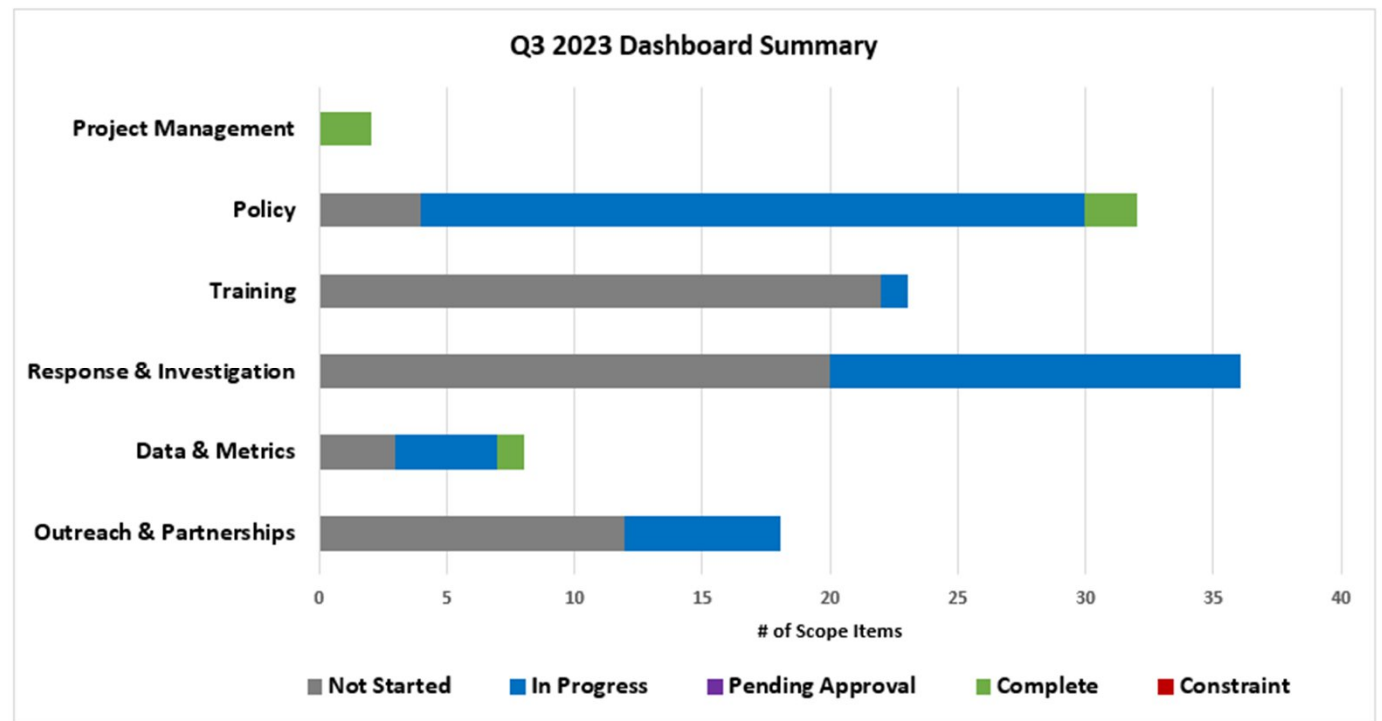
Accomplishments

- Project framework has been established and initiated. APD and Non-APD members have come together. Everyone is at the table.
- We believe the model is unprecedented and will be highlighted as a national best practice.
- Quarterly communication expectations have been established and a joint working group between the Commission for Women and Public Safety Commission has been formed.
- The project team remains committed to making meaningful and long-lasting change while strengthening trust and transparency with all stakeholders.
- 49%+ of Scope is in progress and/or complete.

Dashboard Status

Timeline Summary:

- Q4 2022: PERF report published
- Q1 2023: Project setup and initiation
- Q2 2023: WGs meeting and work began
- Q3 2023: Budget deadlines were prioritized



*Note: APD has initiated and/or implemented many of the items listed as Not Started. The status depicted above is explicit to the multi-disciplinary Workgroup reviewing and confirming each item independently.

Issues & Risks

Financial & Budgetary Processing:

- Improvements can be made in the awareness, communication, and processing of financial and budgetary matters. This will result in...
 - Adequate time for requirements gathering and planning efforts
 - Better alignment of budget dollars to the scope of work
 - Decisions being made with clarity and consensus across the project team

Team & Time:

- This is a large project that takes time to implement correctly, systemically, and collaboratively.
- A tremendous amount of the work is occurring on a volunteer basis by individuals and/or local agency partners.
- APD and Non-APD team member bandwidth is limited and not without constraints.
- Team turnover is anticipated, and the model has been designed to handle such.

Investment:

- Future investment is anticipated to support adequate staffing, enhancements in training, and improvements to the APD website.

Priorities & Next Steps

- Ensure on-going APD leadership and Sworn participation, support, and visibility.
- Finalize the Training proposal for enhancement requests and approval.
- Identify project budgetary needs and establish timeline estimates to completion for improved expectation setting.
- Provide quarterly status updates to the Commission for Women and Public Safety Commission.
- Continue to build trust, transparency, and repair across the team and with the community. Process is just as important as the product.

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THANK YOU