

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board
5700 Valley Way
Ontario L2E 1X8

Date: April 22, 2022

Dear CAPG member,

A key role of any police board and commission is to set the strategy for its police service. Over the many years of its leadership in this area, CAPG has reinforced this role through its annual conferences and training webinars. One of the criticisms that is frequently directed at boards and commissions is the gap that exists between its objectives for the services and the way that they are carried out. Further criticisms have been levelled of the gap that exists for front-line delivery versus strategic aspirations. As policing is overwhelmingly about the front-line, translating principally strategic change into real difference is an important issue. There are now underlying social and cultural pressures that challenge all police services, both strategically and in practice.

Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Dr. Tullio Caputo (Carleton University) have worked in the area of police strategic planning for many years. There has been frequent discussion at the national conference, work with individual boards and webinars. Throughout this, CAPG has supported better planning. The proposed project would move this into a new realm of determining the nature of the gap between plan and execution, how to use an appreciation analysis technology to determine the nature of that gap and what to do about it.

The proposed project is action research, in that it engages the participants in building tools arising from their findings to address the issues they identify. The project has been reviewed and approved by the Laurier Research Ethics Board (Reference # 7131).

It would have three stages:

1. The first stage involves semi-structured interviews with senior members of the CAPG and senior members from their respective police services (chiefs, deputies, etc.). The purpose of these interviews is to gather information from knowledgeable individuals about their perceptions of the alignment gap, its causes, and consequences as well as their insights into potential ways that it could be addressed. Ideas gleaned through these interviews will form the basis for conducting a focus group. The interviews would take place over zoom and would take approximately 1 hour to complete.
2. Stage two would consist of focus groups with up to 10 police services to provide an opportunity to further explore issues surrounding alignment gaps with a specific focus on developing tools to help

identify and respond to these gaps in an effective and timely manner. The focus group sessions would be conducted virtually using Zoom to reduce Covid-related concerns and would take approximately 1-2 hours.

3. On-site development in partnership with up to four boards or commissions to develop unit-level tools, test them, build local capacity, and make the tool available throughout the membership. Given the more intense and focused nature of this phase, there would be visits to each site (more detail will be provided at the end of focus groups in phase one).

We invite you to indicate if you are interested in receiving more information about participating in stage one of this research by contacting Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson (thodgkinson@wlu.ca) directly. Involvement in stage one does not require involvement in future stages and participants are welcome to determine their level of involvement.

Thank you for your interest,



Jennifer Malloy
Executive Director