

**MINUTES – TELECONFERENCE MEETING
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
4pm – 6pm**

Members Present: William Cho, Ryan Gallant, Bradley Lueth, Mallika Walsh (staff: Glenda Basina)

Members Absent:

Guests: Juan Monroe, Robert Salinas, Pablo, Ben Worrall, Michael Ameneiro. Alondra Thompson, Gayle Lafferty, Chelle Monroe, Hezekiah Allen, Melinda Avey, Patricia Wentzel, Ayannah Albrecht

AGENDA ITEM
<p>I. Welcome and Introductions Members, Staff and Guests Chair Cho commenced the meeting at 4:02pm and introductions were made.</p>
<p>II. Presentation Nick Golling, Homeless Services Manager and Benjamin Worrall, Social Services Manager City of Sacramento Overview of Department of Community Response and Outreach and Engagement Center (OEC) Founded 2 years ago to respond to mental health calls due to issue of unhoused, diverted to homelessness crisis in the city. Responds to 311 calls involving homelessness. Team is not a service provider, a connection point to services. Coordinating with HEART Team for assessment and any mental health issues experienced. Currently with 4 teams. Looking to adding 2-4 more teams working in the field, in addition to 15 workers for the unhoused. Studying to move to an alternative response model that does not require siren/fire response is the long-term goal. Right now, the sole purpose is for the unhoused. New Core center on X street by Hope Cooperative. Safe camping program at Miller Park. Immediate/rapid placements held for time of enforcement. A place to stay and case manager on site and work to graduating into continuum of care and/or congregate center. City Council discussing issue next week.</p>
<p>III. Discussion of Presentation and Alignment with Goals Member Walsh asked about timeline from individual entry to respite to rapid placement. Per Ben, rapid placement is considered respite center, a lateral move. Minimum stay is 23 hours and will need to engage if they want to stay again. Member Walsh asked what program is at Miller Park. Per Ben, it's a traditional program, housing applications, county clinicians doing assessments. Essentially working to get them to a permanent placement. No requirement for sobriety to be at Miller Park but sober enough to complete their intake process. If unable to complete intake, taken to WellSpace CHRIB program that's able to take anyone with MH issues. There are limitations onsite. A level of functionality is required to engage.</p> <p>Member Lueth understands they're in the city but can overlap with BHS County staff. Per Ben, they're able to transport outside the city but only respond to calls/operate within city limits.</p>

Member Gallant is grateful for the presentation. Very informative.

Member Lueth asked if this for the homeless only. Per Ben, they respond to 311 all over the City. Any person experiencing homelessness will be reached out to. Considers encampment to be 1 person or more. Team routinely responds to 1 and no size limit to engaging.

Member Wentzel – interested in knowing best opinion among chronically homeless, what proportion/percentage of them get into/willing to be housed and receive services when approached the right way. Ben – everybody spoken to if with keys to apartment would take it. Majority is non-fruitful, frustrated. A barrier is that with service, there's strings attached. Member Wentzel's experience, rarely provided with a private place to live; a shared housing. Per Ben he ran into people with income. More acceptable to room and board with their own room/private space, taking more than 85% of income. Member Wentzel shared proposal is to provide for beds, tied to FSP. In Ben's opinion as social worker and not City's point of view, yes, FSP is unattractive to a lot of people. Limits autonomy. Unless giving people their own private space. Some people will take shared but not a flood of individuals. The county BHS staff engage/enroll people in FSP, done when necessary. Member Wentzel understands and appreciates Ben sharing perspective. Some not sick enough doesn't get into FSP. Just gets sicker and sicker and no longer values the services. Not convinced SB 326 is the answer to everyone's prayers.

Chair Cho – Recently read NPR article, exploring successes/disparity as regards to shelters. People more receptive. Happy to hear rate of acceptance is much higher. Very encouraging. Just not a nameless issue. It's people with trauma and pain. Asks about the program when looking at available beds, are they looking at City only? Per Ben, yes. Lack to coordinate. Facility restricted to accepting City referrals only and short on beds. Chair Cho asked on demographics; men/women, ages. Per Ben, seeing a silver tsunami, average age of client north of 45. Experiencing spike in senior citizens 55+. Thinks a lot of SS benefits that lapsed/inadequate, no family members to care for them. No concrete study with current staff. No manpower to run report. Hezekiah shared the youngest contacted with was at age 14 and oldest at 91. Huge range. Average age close to 47. Age 35-44 common age, 45-54 next then 55-61+. 45% female. 53% male. Racial 40% black, 41% white. 65% of community members have mental health disability and about 25% physical. Close to 40% with chronic condition. As up in age, almost chronic condition resulting in financial issue. About 47% indicate some type of mental health disorder/challenge. SUPTI much lower at 5% alcohol and 15% other substance. Per Ben, they're studying Bloomberg for alternate response to remove service from fire/pd for response. Idea is much more cost effective. They can better respond to emergencies. Ben to meet with Alondra where 988 is going and how they're responding and will City need their own Alternative Response. Chair Cho commented he'd love to hear more as it progresses. Chair Cho thanked Ben, Juan and Hezekiah for their participation. Aware of disfunction between City and County and happy to see it's improved to help people in the county.

IV. Member Announcements or Comments

None.

V. Public Comment

3 Minutes per Person

Alondra excited to hear data around MHSA. New project reaching out to AA unhoused for innovation. Response to CWRT doing well. Members increased calls going to 988.

VI. Adjournment Until Next Meeting

4th Tuesdays of Each Month

Chair Cho adjourned meeting at 5:05pm.