

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SERVICES
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2017
11:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

Members Present: Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, Chair, *District 3*
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Mike Gallagher, *District 10*

Members Absent: Councilmember Roberto Treviño, *District 1*

Staff Present: Maria Villagómez, *Assistant City Manager*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Department of Human Services*; Edward Gonzales, *Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Scott Anderson, *Vice President, Haven for Hope/Center for Health Care Services*; Bill Hubbard, *Executive Director, South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless*; Kevin Moriarty, *President and Chief Executive Officer of Methodist Healthcare Ministries*; Jimmy Richards, *Director of Operations, Centro*; George Thomas, *Chief Operating Officer, Methodist Healthcare Ministries*; Kenny Wilson, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Haven for Hope*

Call to order

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the January 18, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Items for Consideration:

2. Update on the Comprehensive Homeless Plan and Panhandling. [Presented by Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services; William McManus, Chief of Police]

Melody Woosley stated that a "B" Session briefing on the Comprehensive Homeless Plan was presented to the City Council in December 2015. She noted that the short and long-term strategies balancing Traditional Law Enforcement and Social Services were presented. She stated that an impact was made on the community by:

- Interagency collaboration
- Capacity building
- Resource coordination

Ms. Woosley noted that a point-in-time count of the homeless was accomplished during the last 10 days in January 2016, with the count noted to be 2,781. She stated that this represented a 2% decrease in the number of unsheltered homeless. She noted that this was a 4% decrease from 2015. She stated that all cities in the country which received Federal Funding participated in the count. She presented the following numbers for the chronic and high utilizers and ongoing priority populations:

Highest Priority-Chronic and High Utilizers (highest priority)		
Unsheltered 1,137	Severely Mentally ill 820	Chronic Addiction 576
Ongoing Priority Populations		
Veterans 263	Victims of Domestic Violence (sheltered) 284	Families with children (sheltered) 457

Ms. Woosley stated that nationally, the cost of justice, social, and health services was \$40,000 annually per individual. She noted that the point-in-time count for 2017 was held on January 25, 2017 and a final count would be available in March 2017. She stated that it was anticipated that the count for homeless youth would increase due to improved methods. She noted that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) were front line service providers to the homeless.

Chief McManus stated that the IMPACT Team of SAPD noted the following from October 2015 through January 2017:

Contacts	1,324
Referrals	539
Emergency detention	184
Detoxification	209
Refused service	392

Chief McManus noted that the Top Referral Agencies were: 1) Haven for Hope; 2) The Center for Health Care Services; 3) Nix Health; 4) The Salvation Army; and 5) Methodist Hospital. He presented the following panhandling and trespassing arrests for 2015 and 2016:

DOWNTOWN PID	2015	2016	% CHANGE
Trespassing	239	277	15.9%
Panhandling	495	330	-33.3%
CITYWIDE	2015	2016	% CHANGE
Trespassing	1,545	1,879	21.6%
Panhandling	2,554	2,031	-20.5%

Chief McManus stated that the SAPD Bike Patrol partnered with the Office of Historic Preservation and Centro San Antonio to contact 1,061 businesses with 228 having signed Criminal Trespass Affidavits to date. He noted that the Quality of Life Program included the following:

- San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Community Outreach
 - Provide information on services and resources in coordination with Haven for Hope
 - Focus on neighborhoods and identified areas throughout the city
- Crisis Intervention Training
 - Offered to all Officers through Annual In-Service Curriculum
 - Focus on de-escalation techniques and strategies to engage individuals that were mentally unstable and/or under the influence of drugs
- Identification (ID) Recovery
 - SAPD working with Federal Elected Officials to secure Social Security Administration recognition of SAPD ID Verification Letters

Ms. Woosley stated that safety was addressed at Haven for Hope as it was the primary entry point for chronic and the high barrier homeless and provided opportunities for engagement. She noted that Haven for Hope hired seven additional security officers and three Off -Duty SAPD Officers. She stated that this has resulted in reduced emergency calls, deterred criminal presence, and removal of 25 predators. She noted that the goal to achieve Veteran Homelessness was accomplished on May 6, 2016 and quarterly monitoring was accomplished to ensure that Federal Benchmarks were achieved. She stated that 1,742 Homeless Veterans had been housed since January 2015. She noted that the Department of Human Services (DHS) partnered with the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) to restructure its board to eliminate conflicts of interest and increase awareness. She stated that in December 2015, City Council voted to accept revisions to the Charitable Feeding Policy. She noted that the city was tracking the schedules of 10 organizations and providing training. She stated that 65 individuals received Food Handler/Manager Certification. She reviewed the following ongoing strategies:

- Align resources to sustain Veteran and Chronic Homelessness
- Prioritize Housing Resources
- Expand Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Ms. Woosley reviewed the following next steps:

- Pursue Legislative Agenda and resources to improve treatment options
- Utilize data and research to refine community strategies
- Present an integrated report and recommendations to the City Council at a "B" Session in June 2017

Chairperson Viagran asked of the activities of the predators at Haven for Hope. Chief McManus stated that predators would sell drugs, commit sexual assault, etc.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of signage utilized for the homeless. Chief McManus stated that signs posting no trespassing have been utilized and had been effective. Councilmember Gallagher asked of the success of the program utilized in Albuquerque, New Mexico whereby the homeless clean up targeted areas. Chief McManus replied that it had not been explored. Councilmember Gallagher requested that the success of said program be monitored.

Councilmember Lopez asked how homeless camps were dispersed. Chief McManus replied that Haven for Hope would be contacted to offer services as SAPD dispersed individuals from the camps. Councilmember Lopez spoke of the homeless riding on VIA Buses.

Councilmember Gonzales asked who would clean up after the homeless. Ms. Woosley replied that DHS partnered with the Transportation and Capital Improvements and Solid Waste Departments to clean up areas vacated by the homeless. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the cost of clean-up. Maria Villagómez replied that she would provide that information.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing on Homeless Healthcare High Utilizer Study. [Presented by Kevin C. Moriarty, President& CEO, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas]

Kevin Moriarty stated that Methodist Healthcare Ministries (MHM) partnered with Hospital Administration and other stakeholders to perform the Bexar County High Utilizer Study (Study). He noted that MHM worked with Capital Healthcare Planning and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Board to develop the Study. He stated that the Study sought to enlist key providers of healthcare services to collect necessary data to define and consolidate findings, develop strategies for addressing needs and creating a model for future care and funding. He noted that the annual volume of unique patients included in the overall study was significant. He stated that encounters across all sites and settings totaled 1.1 million and were derived from 330,000 individuals. He noted that findings would be reviewed that consisted of the Safety Net as a whole with subsets of the homeless and mental health populations. He stated that patients were widely distributed across the county but homeless and mental health patients were more concentrated in urban areas. He noted that the total cost of providing for the homeless population was almost \$80 million annually and the total cost of providing services to high utilizers was almost \$175 million annually. He noted that 40% of homeless patients were in the Mental Health Population and have a mental health diagnosis. He stated that the total cost of providing healthcare for the safety net population exceeds \$1 billion annually. He noted that the majority of encounters for homeless patients were through the Center for Health Care Services via clinical visits. He stated that no single provider was the predominant provider of homeless care across all venues. He noted that the total cost of providing for the safety net population with mental health issues exceeds \$200 million annually. He provided the following conclusions:

- This was not a Haven for Hope problem and/or a homeless issue alone
- No one system or provider was able to see the entire healthcare picture presented by the super utilizers, particularly those which were homeless and/or with significant mental health issues

- There was a super utilizer population which would benefit from active management
- The opportunity for cost reduction and improvements in public health were significant

Mr. Moriarty stated that the plan to deal with this issue would cost \$30 million per year for five years with the city's share being \$5 million per year for five years. He recommended that 500 housing vouchers be distributed by the city to the homeless.

Chairperson Viagran stated that an educational component for the public on this topic would be helpful.

No action was required for Item 3.

Chairperson Viagran recessed the Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee into Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. to discuss matters pursuant to Section 551.071 (consultation with Attorney).

Chairperson Viagran reconvened the meeting at 12:39 p.m. and stated that no action was taken during Executive Session. She requested that a memo outlining upcoming agenda items be sent to the Committee.


Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.



Rebecca Viagran, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denise F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk

