

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2017
11:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present: Councilmember Cruz Shaw, Chair, *District 2*
Councilmember Ana Sandoval, *District 7*
Councilmember John Courage, *District 9*
Councilmember Clayton Perry, *District 10*

Members Absent: Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, *District 6*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief, SAPD*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Department of Human Services*; John Bull, *Municipal Court Presiding Judge*; Steve Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD*; Jim Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Lance Villers, *Chair, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio*; David Miramontes, *EMS Medical Director*; John Butchkosky, *Community Service Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs*

Call to order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the June 7, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

Items for Consideration:

2. Briefing and Action on the Interlocal Agreements between UT Health Science Center San Antonio and the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) for EMT training, Emergency Medical Services (EMT) System Oversight, and EMS Medical Director Services. [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood reported that the State required the City to have:

- Medical Director Services

- Accredited Training for all Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basics and Paramedics
- Mandated continuing education for all EMT Basics and Paramedics

Chief Hood noted that the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) provided:

- EMS Medical Director Services
- EMS System Oversight
- EMT Basic and Paramedic Training

He stated that SAFD had two agreements with UTHSCSA which included medical direction and medical control and training. He noted that the current agreements with UTHSCSA would expire on September 30, 2017 and there were no renewal options. He reported that the State required oversight of a State of Texas Licensed Physician for EMS to operate. He noted that the City required Medical Director approved treatment and transport protocols. He stated that the Medical Direction Agreement would increase by \$399,000 and support the addition of Emergency Psychiatric Physicians and/or the addition of an Emergency Pediatric Physician. He noted that the Medical Training Agreement increased by \$574,000 and would support the addition of faculty as well as some faculty salary increases and additional textbooks and equipment. He stated that the agreements would be brought before the full City Council on August 31, 2017.

Councilmember Perry asked if staff had conferred with other Medical Systems for the delivery of services. Chief Hood replied that they had not and noted that there was no other Medical System in the City which partnered with a University.

Councilmember Courage asked if the additional physicians would be full-time or on call. Chief Hood replied that said physicians would be on call.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the types of emergencies seen. Chief Hood stated that less than 5% of calls were for car accidents and noted that the remaining calls were made for a variety of reasons. Councilmember Sandoval requested a breakdown of the calls received by Council District. Chief Hood stated that he would provide that information.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to recommend and forward approval of the agreements between SAFD and UTHSCSA to the full City Council for consideration on August 31, 2017. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on the San Antonio Fire Department's (SAFD) Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program. [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood stated that prior to the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH); the 9-1-1 service was a catch all for those without an avenue or ability to gain access to scheduled healthcare. He noted that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) structure provided emergency transport for all patients with healthcare needs. He stated that this process provided acute treatment but lacked

continuity for non-emergent conditions and was higher in cost than primary care. He noted that the current EMS model with MIH was utilized by Paramedics. He stated that Paramedics provided additional services outside the traditional 9-1-1 response by:

- Acting in an expanded role in the community
- Bridging the gap between access to primary care physicians and all associated community services
- Providing patient care in homes before a medical condition escalated and resulted in a hospital admission
- Closing the loop in the Healthcare System by reducing duplication of services

Chief Hood stated that on October 1, 2014, SAFD began a six-month pilot MIH Program which focused on approximately 200 patients with high volume use of the 9-1-1 System. He noted that on May 1, 2016, MIH was staffed with the following:

- 1 Lieutenant and 7 Engineers and associated equipment
- Increased the hours of operation by staffing 4 MIH Paramedics 24 hours per day and 3 MIH Paramedics to maintain regular business hours

Chief Hood stated that MIH had formed a MIH Consortium, which included the South Texas Advisory Council (STRAC) and the Cities of Schertz, Canyon Lake, and New Braunfels. He noted that said Consortium met bi-weekly with the Medical Director. He stated that in partnership with the healthcare community and local stakeholders; SAFD has integrated EMS Service with clinical and non-clinical entities within the community. He presented a map of MIH enrollees by Council District and provided the following overview of the current status of MIH:

- 8,572 contacts since 2014
- 1,594 participants
- 81 enrolled (average enrollment 90 days)
- 63.7% reduction in call volume

Chief Hood reviewed the impact of EMS on high volume utilizers and presented the following benefits of the MIH Program:

- Patient navigation with a strong emphasis on patient advocacy
- Program was under the guidance of the Medical Director and with the Primary Care Physician by solidifying and supporting patient instructions and care plan.
- Program can be tailored to address the needs of the targeted demographic.

He presented the following benefits of the MIH Program for SAFD:

- Increased EMS ALS unit availability subsequently decreasing EMS ALS unit response times
- Increase in Emergency Department bed availability for truly emergent patients
- Decreased the unnecessary cost of emergency healthcare for San Antonio Taxpayers

- Consistent reduction rate over 55% with high utilizers (current reduction 63.7%)

Chief Hood stated that the SAFD MIH received the State of Texas Health and Human Services Commissioners Award of Excellence. He noted that said award recognized Department of Family and Protected Services employees and community partners which have gone to extraordinary lengths to protect and serve the unprotected. He stated that the SAFD MIH was the first outside agency to receive the award.

Councilmember Perry asked if SAFD responded to calls from the other areas identified. Chief Hood replied that SAFD did not respond to calls outside of the City. Councilmember Perry requested information on the number of calls for EMS and MIH. Chief Hood stated that said information would be provided.

Councilmember Courage asked if EMS was utilized for emergencies and MIH was utilized for preventive services. Chief Hood replied that was correct.

Chairman Shaw asked of the reason for the high number of MIH calls observed in Council Districts 1, 2, and 7. Chief Hood stated that the higher number of calls noted in said Council Districts was due to lack of access to medical services and poverty.

Councilmember Courage asked if staff had investigated the possibility of Medicare reimbursement for medical services provided. Chief Hood replied that Medicare reimbursement had been investigated and it was determined by staff that the City could not collect from Medicare. He noted that other revenue could be generated through grants and other opportunities.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the number of Pediatric patients enrolled as part of the Pediatric Asthma Grant. Chief Hood stated that 65 patients were enrolled in the Pediatric Asthma Grant.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Homelessness and Panhandling Initiatives. [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police, and Melody Woosley, Department of Human Services Director]

Chief McManus presented a video on homeless encampments in San Diego, California. He stated that the City of San Antonio (CoSA) had an aggressive Solicitation Ordinance which prohibited the use of sustained verbal and physical intimidation. He noted that an offense was committed if a person solicits:

- In an aggressive manner in a public area
- Within 50 ft. of areas where the public was considered vulnerable or interferes with the flow of traffic

Chief McManus stated that an offense was a Class C Misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$500.00. He noted that a comparison was made with other major cities and CoSA and found that

no other cities had an ordinance except those which prohibited panhandling aggressively at night. He stated that the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPDs) Integrated Mobile Partners Action Care Team (IMPACT) Team found the following:

Number of Contacts	2,169
Referrals	1,003
Refused services	655
Emergency/Detentions	263
Sobering/Detox	248

Chief McManus noted that the top referral agencies were: 1) Haven for Hope; 2) The Center for Health Care Services; and 3) Nix Health. He presented the following panhandling/trespassing arrests for 2016 and 2017 (January 1st – July 31st)

Downtown PID	2016	2017	% change
Panhandling	187	175	-6%
Trespassing	165	182	10%
Citywide	2016	2017	% change
Panhandling	1,099	937	-15%
Trespassing	1,027	1,202	17%

Chief McManus stated that San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) community outreach was accomplished by focusing on neighborhoods and identified areas throughout the city. He noted that outreach was accomplished by training Officers in the following:

- Crisis intervention
- Identification recovery

Melody Woosley stated that a Point In-Time (PIT) count was held annually and those counted were surveyed. She provided the following data regarding the PIT count for the City of San Antonio and comparison cities:

2017 PIT Analysis	San Antonio Jan. 26, 2017	Austin	Houston	Dallas
Sheltered	1,641	1,202	2,328	2,702
Courtyard Count	661	0	0	0
Unsheltered street count	441	834	1,084	1,087

Ms. Woosley reported that a total of \$10.2 million from the City and other providers was invested in the homeless. She noted that the ongoing activities of the comprehensive homeless strategy included:

- End Veteran Homelessness
- Effective continuum of care

- Improve courtyard environment
- Multi-disciplinary outreach teams

Ms. Woosley stated that the fiscal year (FY) priorities included: 1) Proactive encampment outreach; and 2) Mental health collaboration. She noted that encampment goals were to: 1) Identify; 2) Outreach; 3) Restore; and 4) Maintain. She described the encampment outreach goals and the Interfaith Campaign for Alternative Giving.

John Bull explained the process for the homeless moving through the Court System and stated that the goal of the court was to route the homeless to extended treatment. He noted that a Pilot Program was suggested and could be successful with assistance from the Probate Court.

Councilmember Perry asked of the cost for homeless services. Ms. Woosley stated that the total cost was \$60 million of which \$24 million was supported by the City.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the homeless population. Ms. Woosley stated that the homeless were comprised of individuals, Veterans, youth, and families and would provide data for each.

Chairman Shaw noted that the problem could not be solved with arrests and expressed support for future discussion on this topic.

No action was required for Item 4.

Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items considered for future meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.



Cruz Shaw, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk