

City of San Antonio



Minutes Community Health Committee

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Chair: Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7

Thursday, January 23, 2025

2:00 PM

City Hall

The Community Health Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 2:02 PM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Teri Castillo, *Chair*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

Members Absent: Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the Community Health Committee meeting on December 16, 2024.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 Community Health Committee meeting. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Castillo, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Alderete Gavito
Absent: Kaur

Public Comments

Laura Moniar and Yaneth Flores spoke in support of Item 2 and to the need for reproductive services for all women in Texas.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition to Item 2 associated with proposed additional downstream services under the Reproductive Justice Fund.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing on Reproductive Justice Fund – Addition of Downstream Services. [Claude A. Jacob, Director Metro Health; Troy Elliott, Director, Finance]

Dr. Claude Jacob, Metro Health Director, provided an update on the Reproductive Justice Fund downstream services and reviewed the current landscape on the issue of Reproductive Justice services, which included health education, access to physicians, wraparound care, and abortion access. He spoke to services provided by other cities nationally and costs associated with those services.

Jacob reviewed downstream services provided by the City, which included home pregnancy tests, emergency contraception, subsidized doulas, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) testing, and transportation assistance to medical services. He noted that these services were provided as permissible by law.

Jacob reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) awards executed in November 2024, which totaled \$449,179. He added that services were broken down by costs with 6% upstream services (\$29,951), 35% midstream services (\$174,713), and 59% downstream services (\$294,515).

Jacob mentioned that in the first request for proposals, transportation to abortion care services were optional, along with many other services. He noted that none of the four respondents proposed abortion transportation or navigation. According to Jacob, two respondents included these services as an element of a broader package (Beat AIDS Coalition Trust and Parenting Plus). He added that abortion navigation was not addressed by any of the other respondents.

Jacob reminded the Committee of the memorandum submitted by Councilmember Cabello Havrda, which was received on November 22, 2024, requesting consideration of providing downstream services that were not met through the already awarded funds of \$500,000. He noted that the request was for an additional \$100,000 targeted to downstream activities with consideration restricted to the original 10 applicants. Jacob added that the solicitation scoring would remain the same as in the previous RFP, be open for 30 days, followed by a 30-day review and scoring period, and presented to the City Council for consideration.

Jacob spoke to potential barriers in providing downstream services, which included potential litigation and open records requests as a deterrent for some providers. He noted that some organizations struggled with quick turnaround solicitations, contracting requirements, and there was a prohibition on advance payments for services. Jacob added that Local Preference Points for solicitations could disadvantage some applicants with experience in Reproductive Justice.

Jacob requested feedback and recommendations from the Committee.

DISCUSSION

Chair Castillo stated that Councilmember Cabello Havrda had submitted a letter of support to the

Committee for review and for the record. She noted that she supported the Item to move forward to the City Council for consideration and she thanked Mayor Ron Nirenberg for advocating this Item as a priority for funding. Chair Castillo mentioned that she supported the proposed timeline and funding for collecting responses for the downstream services and she was hopeful for applicants.

Chair Castillo asked if applicants who had submitted a proposal in the first round would be allowed to amend their proposals. Deputy Financial Officer Troy Elliott confirmed that previous applicants would be allowed to amend their applications and resubmit.

Councilmember Viagran noted her support of the proposed \$100,000 for downstream services. She asked for clarification on the potential barriers to submitting applications from the 10 previous applicants and asked if the applicants would be allowed to provide submissions without abortion navigation downstream services, and if they would be considered for the additional funding if they did not include the navigation services. Jacob stated that staff anticipated these potential barriers based on previous submissions.

City Attorney Andy Segovia clarified that it was up to the City Council on what to specify as downstream services in submissions and that they could request specific services such as navigation to be submitted, or they could request what respondents would propose with the additional funding. Councilmember Viagran stated that she supported \$100,000 for downstream services and for the 10 original vendors and providers to note what downstream services were most needed, which may not be for abortion navigation services. She stated that she would push for as much funding up to \$2 million in services in the future for women.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on whether any action was needed from the Committee today since the Agenda specified that the Item would be for briefing purposes. Segovia clarified that under the category title the Item could receive action from the Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked where the \$100,000 funding would come from. Jacob stated that the funding would come from the Adopted FY 2025 Metro Health Operating Budget.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on how the current \$500,000 allocated for the Reproductive Justice Fund was being used. Jacob stated that the funds that were distributed would be reported back to the City in a report from the organizations by the end of December 2025.

Perkins read the letter of support submitted by Councilmember Cabello Havrda.

Chair Castillo stressed that in the case of a weather emergency, it was important to do the needed work before a storm occurred. She stated that it was important to provide information on needed services to the community and she thanked staff and stakeholders for the work performed to date.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked that if the Item was moved forward for full City Council consideration, would she still have the capability to raise additional questions at a future date. Jacob stated that he would make himself available for any questions.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito requested that the Committee enter into Executive Session to discuss some legal questions that she had on the Item.

Chair Castillo recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 2:36 p.m. to deliberate or discuss legal issues related to the following:

CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CONCERNING ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS UNDER CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.

Chair Castillo reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 2:47 p.m. and announced that no official action had been taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that while she was pro-choice and believed in women's rights she noted that these services should be provided by nonprofit organizations and not by the City. She did not support funding from the General Fund Budget for travel services.

Chair Castillo clarified that the RFP for \$100,000 for downstream services had a quick turnaround time so that organizations who had previously submitted applications would be able to respond.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: Castillo, Viagran
No: Alderete Gavito
Abstain: Rocha Garcia
Absent: Kaur

3. Consideration of one (1) At-Large appointment to the Municipal Golf Association – San Antonio (MGA-SA) Board of Directors. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

The Community Health Committee interviewed the following applicants for one (1) vacant at-large position on the Municipal Golf Association Board of Directors:

Demonte Alexander
Mary Carriker

Chair Castillo recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 2:02 p.m. to discuss the annual selection of the recommended applicant.

Chair Castillo reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 3:08 p.m. and announced that no official action had been taken in Executive Session.

Demonte Alexander was selected for the vacant at-large position on the Municipal Golf Association.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Approved

Teri Castillo, Chair

*Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk*

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