



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 23

**Agenda Date:** March 20, 2025

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Fire Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Valerie Frausto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

FY 2025 Polysubstance Overdose Prevention Crisis Response (Poly-OPCR) acceptance of funds

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a contribution from the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC) in the amount up to \$199,686.16 approves a program budget and appropriates funds to be used by the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) unit of the EMS division of the San Antonio Fire Department to improve substance use disorder outcomes and response for residents that have suffered or are suffering from alcohol, methamphetamine and other substance use disorders (SUD). Funding is for the period of October 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC) was established to facilitate the development, implementation, and operation of a regional comprehensive trauma and emergency healthcare system based on accepted standards of care to decrease morbidity and

mortality. Funds from STRAC are awarded to assist in improving the functionality of EMS agencies in the State of Texas. STRAC has been presented with operational funding totaling \$199,686.16 for personnel for the Polysubstance Overdose Prevention and Crisis Response program (Poly-OPCR). Poly-OPCR focuses on patients suffering from alcohol abuse, methamphetamines or other Substance Use Disorders (SUD) to improve patient outcomes.

A substance use disorder (SUD) is a mental disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to a person's inability to control their use of substances such as legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications. Symptoms can range from moderate to severe, with addiction being the most severe form of SUDs. Poly-OPCR aims to reduce limitations, improve equity of existing Emergency Medical Service (EMS/MIH) programs, and expand to address alcohol and other SUD. The scope of the expansion shall include recovery support for each overdose and MIH support to remediate substance misuse, moderate and severe SUD, and overdose-related fatalities. This contract is funded with supplemental COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease of 2019) funding, which will serve people in Texas affected by use of alcohol and other substances. The primary principles for the Polysubstance Overdose Prevention Response Team will be to address alcohol, methamphetamine, and other substances by offering services to people who are living in the city limits of San Antonio who are at risk of overdose from opioids, alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, or other poly-substance use. Patients will be identified several different ways:

- a. Post overdose 911 calls,
- b. Internal referrals from EMS/Fire crews or existing OPCR teams
- c. External referrals from existing partners (SACADA, New Seasons, Haven, CHCS).

#### **ISSUE:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a contribution from the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC) in the amount up to \$199,686.16 approves a program budget and appropriates funds. The Poly OPCR program focuses on connecting individuals identified as being at high risk of SUD related to poly-substance use accompanied with Mobile Integrated Healthcare support in collaboration with local practitioners.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternatives.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a contribution of funds from the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC) in the amount up to \$199,686.16 approves a program budget and appropriates funds to be used by the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) unit of the EMS division of the San Antonio Fire Department to help improve the outcomes of residents that have suffered or are suffering from substance use disorder (SUD).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to accept the contribution of funds up to \$199,686.16 from the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC).