



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: May 19, 2025

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Update on Mental Health Initiatives and the San Antonio Community Outreach and Resiliency Effort (SA-CORE) Team

SUMMARY:

A presentation providing an update to the Public Safety Committee on the mental health focus areas to include youth mental health, substance use, and mental health and public safety. Additionally, this presentation will provide an update on the San Antonio Community Outreach and Resiliency Effort (SA-CORE) program. This is a collaborative effort to respond to mental health 911 calls with a multidisciplinary team comprised of a mental health clinician, a paramedic, and a police officer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mental Health Initiatives

The City Council authorized \$27.2 million of ARPA funds for mental health programs. These programs were intended to expand over two years from 2023 to 2025.

In April 2022, the City Council charged the Public Safety Committee to oversee the development of the implementation plan for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Mental Health initiatives. The implementation plan was approved by the Public Safety Committee on August 16, 2022 and subsequently by the City Council on September 1, 2022. The funds were allocated to provide mental health services to youth, older adults, homeless individuals, and victims of domestic violence in partnerships with non-profit organizations through a competitive process. The formal solicitation process was conducted through two solicitation processes in September 2022 and March 2023.

Through the competitive processes \$23,951,948 was awarded to 38 agencies and \$3,250,000 was allotted to existing city programs in the Metro Health and Human Services Departments. On February 20, 2024, Metro Health briefed the Public Safety Committee on the progress of mental health ARPA contracts and services.

At the May 19 Public Safety Committee, Staff will provide a briefing on youth mental health and harm reduction initiatives funded with ARPA funds that ended on February 28, 2025 and those that will end on July 31, 2025. Additionally, the presentation will include an update on mental health initiatives funded by the general fund and Opioid Settlement Fund initiatives.

San Antonio Community Outreach and Resiliency Effort (SA-CORE)

SA-CORE is a coordinated effort with between the City of San Antonio Police, San Antonio Fire and Metro Health Departments, the Center for Health Care Services (CHCS) and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC). The mission is to provide immediate alternative response and assessment of patients experiencing mental health crises. The goal of the program is to provide the best appropriate level of care and intervention based on the individual's need while utilizing the least restrictive approach.

The SA-CORE program began as a pilot program in April 2022 with one team covering the central part of the City seven days per week 16 hours per day. The City Council approved two additional teams during the FY2023 mid-year budget adjustment to provide coverage city-wide effective January 2024. As part of the FY 2024 Budget, During the FY2024 Budget development process, City Council requested all 3 teams expand to 24-hour availability by the summer of 2024. On July 1, 2024, all three teams expanded to 24/7 service delivery.

On June 28, 2024, Metro Health last briefed the Public Safety Committee on the development of the Mental Health and Public Safety Strategic Guide and the progress of SA-CORE. As part of the overview of mental health focus areas, this presentation will provide an update on SA-CORE and the Mental Health and Public Safety Strategic Guide.

ISSUE:

A presentation providing an briefing to the Public Safety Committee on the mental health focus areas of youth mental health, substance use, and mental health and public safety to include an update on San Antonio Community Outreach and Resiliency Effort (SA-CORE) and Public Safety Strategic Guide for the City of San Antonio.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.