



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: March 8, 2022

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the possibility of amplifying domestic violence, family violence, and sex trafficking awareness through City and City-related touchpoints.

SUMMARY:

Metro Health would like to provide a response to the Council Consideration Request filed by councilmember Manny Pelaez on October 18, 2021 giving direction to City staff to develop and operationalize a plan to equip city and city affiliated organizations with requirements to distribute informational resources regarding domestic violence, family violence and human trafficking.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Domestic violence is also called family violence, domestic battering, spousal abuse, domestic abuse, and intimate partner violence. Regardless of the name, at the heart of domestic violence is the attempt by one person to use power and control over another person in a physical, economic, or emotional way. This power struggle can shape many abusive behaviors, including stalking,

physical violence, sexual violence, mental abuse, and emotional abuse. While human trafficking and sex trafficking can be a part of intimate partner violence, they also have unique risks and encompass other forms of abuse and human rights violations. For example, abusive partners may use physical force, coercion, and violence to compel participation in sex work. Abusive partners may also force other forms of labor without pay.

Domestic violence, human trafficking, and sex trafficking are underreported and undercounted, with the true scope of the challenge remaining hidden. Current estimates are that 1 in 3 women in Texas and 1 in 4 men in Texas has experienced domestic violence. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, of the more than 50,000 people trafficked in the United States every year, 25% pass through Texas. In 2020, the city reported 36 family violence homicides, of which 20 were women murdered by male intimate partners. During that same year, the SAPD Crisis Response Team served 14,542 family violence victims and conducted 2,672 home visits, even as home visits were limited due to COVID-19 protocols. In 2020, SAPD received 80,410 family violence-related calls through September. In 2021, SAPD received 91,521 calls, a 14% increase compared to the same time the previous year.

ISSUE:

Over the last several years, the City of San Antonio has made tremendous strides in building up community networks to respond to domestic violence and provide support to those in need. The continued investment in the Metro Health Violence Prevention Section, and the establishment of and ongoing work of the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence (CCDV) demonstrate the serious attention our community is paying to this critical issue. However, there is still more that can be done to build awareness of domestic violence, family violence, and human trafficking support resources.

The current initiatives that are part of the City of San Antonio Comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention Plan and are being implemented by Metro Health and the CCDV, include:

1. Development and implementation of the Love Is... community-wide awareness media campaign across multiple media and communication channels, including large employers.
2. Implementation of the Purple Porch SA Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign in October 2021
3. Development and placement of 10,000 decals in bathrooms in both English and Spanish that include information on domestic violence and how to seek assistance.
4. Development of signage in both English and Spanish related to human trafficking
5. Establishment of the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence website with information on local resources
6. Provision of community outreach and education presentations, including training provided to Communities in Schools, Region 20, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, faith-based leaders, medical students, and several school districts and universities
7. Publication of Domestic Violence Quarterly data reports, bringing multiple local domestic violence data sources together in one place for community assessment
8. The second CCDV Domestic Violence Symposium hosted in October 2021 which was attended by other 400 community members

Additional informational resources regarding domestic violence and human trafficking can be developed by the Violence Prevention Section staff in coordination with CCDV partners and distributed through entities recommended in the CCR including, but not limited to:

1. City Departments that conduct public outreach
2. Department of Human Services delegate agencies
3. San Antonio Food Bank
4. Municipal Court
5. Pre-K 4 SA
6. Right to Counsel Agencies
7. San Antonio Public Libraries
8. SAWS and CPS Energy
9. VIA Transit
10. Workforce Solutions and other workforce-related delegate agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

no fiscal impact at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

no alternative recommendations at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends additional research on the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate informational resources on domestic violence and human trafficking and commits to developing a plan to equip city and city-affiliated organizations with these informational resources.