

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Ana Sandoval, *Chair*
Mario Bravo, *Member*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Teri Castillo, *Member*

Members Absent: Phyllis Viagran, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the February 24, 2021, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the February 24, 2022 Community Health, Environment and Culture meeting. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, Castillo

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran

Public Comments

Marta Pelaez spoke in support of proposed signage and requested that expanded signage be placed in all public restroom areas to address the need for education on domestic abuse, human trafficking and sexual abuse available assistance. She noted the support of community partners for signage and outlined future communication partnerships.

Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins read a letter submitted by Councilmember Manny Pelaez addressing the proposed recommended changes by City staff. Pelaez noted that the original intent of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) was a requirement of public accommodation to post domestic violence/intimate partner violence support resources. Pelaez explained that the aim was to further raise awareness and ensure maximum coverage for that information. Councilmember Pelaez requested the continued advocacy from fellow Councilmembers for the original intent of the CCR.

Briefing and Possible Action on

- 2. Overview of the City's Domestic Violence programs and briefing on response to the Council Consideration Request filed regarding a requirement that all places of public accommodation display in bathrooms clearly visible signage featuring domestic violence and sex trafficking prevention resources.** [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Metro Health]

Metro Health Director Claude Jacob provided an update on the Domestic Violence Programs in response to a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requiring domestic violence and human trafficking prevention signage. Jacob provided an overview of the subject background, review of conducted assessment with community partners, proposed program strategies and expanded education initiatives.

Jacob noted that the CCR was originally filed by Councilmember Pelaez in October 2021 and reviewed the issue that required that all domestic of public accommodations display in bathrooms clearly visible signage featuring domestic violence and sex trafficking resources. Jacob provided examples of educational signage, marketing materials and staff communications. Jacob reviewed staff's recommendations and the proposed timeline for the implementation of staff recommendations.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he felt that the proposed staff recommendations did not fully meet the original intent of the CCR. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the decals were distributed to public spaces such as restaurants and what the number of establishments had already posted. Herriott noted that the exact number of establishments posting the signage was unclear but noted that City staff did distribute the decals to various restaurants and could provide additional data of locations and follow-up on postings. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that while he knew that the displays could not be mandated to be posted, he did want to see what could be done to highly recommend posted signage. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked of metrics to be identified to measure the success of the signage.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on why the proposed recommendations were slightly different from the submitted CCR. Jacob stated that the signage could not be mandated by the City, but that City staff would continue to consult with the City Attorney's Office in order to see how signage could be further expanded and monitored. Councilmember Castillo asked if the proposed Ordinance could hinder small businesses in making sure to enforce posted signage. Claude stated that the Ordinance enforcement would need to be balanced and staff would continue to vet objectives and Ordinance requirements with the City Attorney's Office (CAO). Castillo recommended and stressed that the education component was crucial to include display materials.

Councilmember Bravo requested that communication experts be consulted on proposed signage in order to ensure that pertinent information was provided and readily available.

Chair Sandoval asked for clarification if provided signage was installed at shared establishments. Herriott stated that materials were positively received but that it was not confirmed that signage

was actually posted and stated that future signage distribution would be followed up to determine if signage was actually posted.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested further data as to determine if the proposed Ordinance was legally viable, determination of how many places were of public accommodation, determination of the financial implication of the purchase and distribution of decal materials, if any public dollars other than ARPA funding was available and identifying metrics for success of program. Chair Sandoval requested a timeline for when City staff would have materials available and of distribution.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve Item 2 with an amendment that domestic violence decals distributed and placed as part of this policy include easily identifiable contact information about the range of ‘patient-centered mobile resources’, the Fire and EMS offer through the COSA Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program and other related programs; and an amendment which makes the disbursement of ARPA funds outside organizations contingent upon displaying domestic violence decals and signage. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo

Absent: Viagran

3. Response to the Council Consideration Request filed regarding amplifying domestic violence, family violence, and sex trafficking awareness through City and City-related touchpoints. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Metro Health]

Jennifer Herriott, Metro Health Assistant Director, provided an overview of background and staff recommendations associated with the CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez regarding amplifying domestic violence, family violence and sex trafficking awareness through City and City-related touchpoints. Herriott reviewed the actions taken by the Metro Health Department in addressing this initiative to include marketing signage, education efforts and establishing community partnerships to address domestic violence issues. Herriott stated that the FY22 Budget included four new positions and she reviewed staff recommendations.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if public funding could be utilized for this initiative. Herriott confirmed that public funds could be utilized.

Castillo asked who would develop the awareness communications for this initiative. Herriott stated that marketing staff would create communications. Castillo requested that educational resources information be included in all marketing decals and related materials.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if substance abuse assistance or referrals could be provided as well as domestic violence materials since there was a direct relation to substance and domestic violence. Herriott stated that assistance could be provided simultaneously.

Chair Sandoval asked if a stipend or additional resources could be provided for this initiative. Herriott stated that staff would continue to evaluate and provide an update on available resources.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve Item 3 with an amendment that application efforts and the development of information resources as part of this policy include information about the range of patient centered mobile resources the City offers through the San Antonio Fire Department and EMS, such as the COSA Mobile Integrated Healthcare Programs and other related programs as well as information about Nexlin Infographics and associated mechanisms. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo

Absent: Viagran

4. Response to the Council Consideration Request filed regarding requiring that schools and universities which receive city funding ensure instruction on family violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Metro Health]

Metro Health Assistant Director Jennifer Herriott provided an overview of the CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez to include background information and the proposed requirements for schools, colleges and universities to provide instruction on family violence, child abuse and human trafficking. She reviewed the staff recommendations.

Chair Sandoval asked for clarification on the grade levels included in the initiatives. Herriott stated that the grade levels included public schools' grades K-12 and at colleges/universities. Chair Sandoval asked if trades schools were included. Then, recommended exploring including trade schools and any affiliates through the Ready to Work Program. Chair Sandoval asked whether the City had authority require to this or whether it is still under exploration. Assistant City Attorney Hernandez responded that CAO is looking into that because there is a recent state law related to education in schools for family violence and sex trafficking.

Councilmember Castillo asked if there would be participant fees associated with these services. Herriott stated that associated fees would be covered by provided funding.

Councilmember Bravo asked if Pre-K4SA students could be included in this initiative. Herriott stated that they could and that education would be provided to parents and teachers.

Herriott stated that next steps would be to research educational information and materials and consult with the City Attorney's Office to assess the feasibility of any additional enforcement mechanisms.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo

Absent: Viagran

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Approved

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk