

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Public Safety Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Friday, June 10, 2022

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Clayton Perry, *Member*

Members Absent: Ana Sandoval, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approval of minutes of from the April 19, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting.**

Public Comment

Eric Estrada, Executive Director of SA Clubhouse, Inc., spoke of the need and support for funding for mental health and disability services in the community. He provided examples of mental health services and partnerships within the community and associated metrics.

Robert Melvin, Executive Director of SAGE, Inc., spoke in support of funding needs for mental health initiatives and services in the community. He added that the number of mental health organizations were varied and able but needed funding to complete the services needed.

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked the speakers for sharing their input and provided a Point of Personal Privilege to Eric Estrada and his staff at SA Clubhouse in assisting individuals with mental health issues.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Committee policy discussion and possible action on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF”) Spending Framework adopted by City Council under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the category of Mental Health. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Claude Jacob, Director, Health]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act spending framework plan for mental health. She noted the COVID impacts to the community in relation to mental health issues such as social isolation, anxiety, depression and suicide, and reviewed the draft Mental Health Plan with its associated strategies/programs and outcomes in addressing the identified impacts. Deputy City Manager Villagomez provided details of partnerships with Bexar County and the Center for Health Care Services (CHCS) in the delivery of mental health services and meeting identified outcomes.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reviewed the proposed stakeholder engagement and meeting dates, timeline for solicitation to identify service delivery providers, and next steps to include final approval by the full City Council.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how stakeholders to be included in meetings were to be selected. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the City already had a list of community stakeholders that the City worked with to participate in meetings and then public input meetings for any organization or individual to attend. Chair Cabello Havrda expressed her concern that there were only three meetings to gain public engagement. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would be working closely with partners to expand outreach.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked that the committee be provided a list of organizations requesting ARPA funding to assure that all requests are being identified and addressed. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that community engagement would be expansive in order to assure that the solicitation for service delivery providers be thorough and provided clarification of the solicitation process timeline. Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the services provided by CHCS. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified the charge of CHCS and services provided.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked of the outreach conducted to veterans. Human Services Director Melody Woosley reviewed the outreach and services provided by the Department of Human Services.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the convener services conducted by Bexar County and CHCS. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that CHCS was not providing convener services and spoke of what CHCS was charged to do.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that organizations with specific expertise be

identified by categories and provided funding per categories and that organizations not normally considered be brought to consideration. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that she would bring these requests to the County for discussion and would then bring to the committee for review.

Councilmember Viagran noted that Bexar County had committed to \$30M under the proposed solicitation and asked how the City would be working with the County for service delivery. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified what the funding categories were for the County funds. Councilmember Viagran requested information for the specific strategies and outcomes and information on who was expected to deliver services and stated that she expected outside agencies to deliver the solicited services communications and not through the City to ensure wider message delivery. Councilmember Viagran stressed that K-12 education professionals needed to be included to identify needed services and delivery.

Councilmember Perry requested additional information on the proposed solicitation and process in order to gain a better understanding of the solicitation, services to be provided and associated data. He expressed that additional work was needed before a solicitation was released and that clarification was needed on what Bexar County services would be covering and how funding would be identified once ARPA funding had been exhausted in 2026. He asked of funding provided to school districts and the importance to make sure that funding they received was included in the data.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that this briefing was done in order to obtain information and provide input to staff for this process and that the Committee would have another opportunity in August to provide feedback.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that funding not be used in increasing bureaucracy in the process and that it was important to gain stakeholder feedback to determine how funding should be divided. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that in the quadrant based approach convened organizations provide information by quadrants and that a full plan be brought to the committee for review.

Councilmember Perry asked clarification on the solicitation process timeline and the review of solicitation process. Deputy City Manager Villagomez provided clarification of both processes.

Councilmember Viagran reiterated the importance of including K-12 specialist delivery of services in a timely and efficient manner.

No action was taken on this item.

- 3. WITHDRAWN Briefing, and possible action, on crime statistics for the 1st Quarter of Calendar Year 2022 (January to March)** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Police Chief]

4. Briefing, and possible action, on awarding four Crime Prevention Grants for a total of \$250,000 [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Police Chief]

Police Chief William McManus provided an overview of the Community Crime Prevention Program and award of four Crime Prevention Grants totaling \$250,000 in asset forfeiture funds. McManus reviewed the program goals and timeline for the grant process. He reviewed the four organizations recommended to receive the grants.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification of the identified organizations locations. McManus provided clarification and that he would provide specifics on each organization's locations. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked of the expertise of each organization and delivery of services. Assistant Police Chief Rick Riley noted that each organizations had areas of expertise in dealing with youth services and areas of concentration.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion by the following vote:

No: Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Perry

Absent: Sandoval

5. Briefing, and possible action, on the Resiliency Hubs plan [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, San Antonio Fire Chief]

Deputy City Manager Villagomez introduced the item and Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Norris to discuss the San Antonio Fire Department Resiliency Hub Program. Norris stated that the Hubs would be established in three mode categories identified as Normal, Disruptive and Recovery. Norris reviewed the Resiliency Hub concepts and modes of operations associated with facility, operations and staffing and community. He provided an overview of staff recommendations for the Hubs and the reviewed the 16 identified potential locations for Hubs. He spoke on the community engagement process, short-term goals and timeline for the Resiliency Hub delivery process.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if there would be transportation options for residents that did not live close to the proposed sites. Chief stated that the engagement process would identify the challenges with transportation and then a plan would be developed based on input. Villagomez stated that the City would work closely with VIA Transit in the event of emergencies to provide transportation as needed.

Councilmember Viagran expressed her support of identified Southside proposed sites and was excited for the delivery of the Hubs. Councilmember Viagran stressed that it was important that the public utilities provide communications on when the Hubs were available and when to use in emergency situations.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the funding provided for the HUBS. Norris stated that the preparation of the HUBS included needed infrastructure services such as generator backups and other weather related items. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that possible funding be identified in capital funding to prepare the facilities prior to delivery of HUBS in order to use as much funding for delivery of services. Villagomez stated that a \$5M grant submission would be used to provide many infrastructure improvements and possible expansion of HUB locations and that she would provide the committee with more specifics on the grant submission timeline. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that the Ella Austin Community Center be considered as a future HUB site.

Councilmember Perry asked if there was benchmarking done with other cities. Norris stated that there was general analysis done but no site visits had been conducted. Councilmember Perry asked that site visits be conducted especially since Austin was not far away and could be visited to gain information on what had been successful at that site.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on how residents would receive communications on HUB locations and services. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the outreach had not yet begun. Councilmember Perry requested that City Council be provided materials to disburse to residents for greater engagement and outreach. Councilmember Perry asked if this was the first phase of HUBs to be established and if other phases for more HUBs sites be possible. Norris stated that this was the first phase and based on delivery of services more sites could be proposed.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if community garden concepts be delivered. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the inclusion and delivery of gardens and other amenities was based on gold standards of Resiliency Hubs and could be expanded as funding became available. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what other funding sources were available if proposed grant was not awarded. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that ARPA funding could be used for Emergency Preparedness and the annual Budget process would also be used.

No action was taken on this item.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk