



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 7

Agenda Date: March 20, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Crisis Nursery

SUMMARY:

On September 21, 2023, Councilwoman Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia and Councilman Manny Peláez submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) proposing a cost-free San Antonio Crisis Nursery Program to provide safe and temporary shelter for children at risk of abuse or neglect, offer family and parenting support, and other culturally responsive services with the overall goal of keeping children safe and families together.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The CCR identifies a crisis nursery as a respite care program which creates a safety net of resources for families facing a crisis to prevent child abuse.

Per the CCR, the crisis nursery would provide a short term stay for children as their parents address the crisis in their life. A crisis can be defined as any stressor with the potential to cause family harm such as sudden hospitalization, fires, domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, and family problems.

The primary goal of a crisis nursery is to stop the cycle of family abuse and trauma by providing prevention services to relieve families in a time of stress.

ISSUE:

The CCR proposes that San Antonio develop a crisis nursery program designed to provide safe and nurturing temporary shelter for children at risk of abuse or neglect: empower families to resolve crisis and build resiliency through interventions: and empower children and parents to advocate for themselves.

The program should also provide equitable access to concrete support, counseling and education; address the needs of the entire family through wrap around services; and be easily accessible in geographic areas where the risk of abuse and neglect is statistically more prevalent.

Finally, the program would serve to advocate for the wellbeing of families in our region; offer grassroots community outreach and training with the goal of abuse prevention; and serve as a partner to other entities that provide services to families and children in need.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that this CCR be forward to the Community Health Committee.