



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: March 28, 2024

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Crisis Nursery Briefing

SUMMARY:

This item provides a staff briefing and recommended action on a Council Consideration Request (CCR) related to 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.

On March 20, 2024, the Governance Committee approved staff recommendation to refer this Council Consideration Request to the Community Health Committee for further discussion and action.

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. Proposed program services would include referral and access to counseling, education, and wraparound services. Service areas would include an equity focus on areas where the risk of abuse and neglect is statistically more prevalent.

The program is also intended to advocate for the wellbeing of families in our region; offer grassroots community outreach and training; and serve as a partner to other entities that provide services to families and children in need.

This program would be a first of its kind model in San Antonio. Additional information to determine community need, funding, service locations, and analysis of data is needed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to prepare a proposal for City Council to consider funding allocation to complete a Feasibility Study for the establishment of a Crisis Nursery Program model in San Antonio through the City Council Goal Setting Session for the FY 2025 Budget.