

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes Public Safety Committee

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**Monday, March 21, 2022**

**9:30 AM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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

**Members Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes from the February 15, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Perry

**Absent:** Sandoval

### Public Comment

Denise McVea testified about the need to implement an alternate response community advisory board. McVea noted that the community deserved an active role in the evaluation and direction of the initiative.

Justin Martinez discussed Bexar County's program metrics and evaluation and the creation of a community advisory board. Martinez distributed packets that detailed information in those areas and noted that this was a great opportunity for the City to involve community members and community advocates in this stage of the process and in every other key decision-making process in the program.

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

2. **Briefing and possible on the submission of a grant application in an amount up to \$2,176,605 for an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. This grant includes funding of seventeen (17) positions which are currently funded through past HIDTA grant awards.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Police Chief]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Perry

**Absent:** Sandoval

3. **Briefing and possible action on the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) procurement of a new Armored Caterpillar MultiTerrain Loader (the ROOK) with trailer and attachments for an estimated cost of \$389,600 funded with the 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant. This unarmed vehicle will be used by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team to respond to critical emergency situations.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Police Chief]

Chief William McManus provided an overview of the Item which covered “The Rook” which was a Tactical Response and Rescue Vehicle. He noted that the vehicle was used in emergency situations in SWAT incidents in San Antonio and the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) area. He reviewed the different scenarios the vehicle would be utilized for, vehicle capabilities, funding sources and a timeline for City Council approval.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if the vehicle could be used in other than emergency situations. Chief McManus stated that the vehicle could be used in rescue scenarios.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed his concern that the City had not fully vetted the use of military grade vehicles in different scenarios especially in areas with individuals of color.

McKee-Rodriguez asked if there was a procedural manual for when the vehicle would be utilized.

McManus stated that there was not currently a manual but one would be developed.

Councilmember Viagran asked clarification on the different scenarios the equipment could be used in. McManus reviewed the various scenarios. Viagran stated that she would be supporting the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Perry

**No:** McKee-Rodriguez

**Absent:** Sandoval

## **ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

### **Briefing and Possible Action on**

#### **4. Briefing on the San Antonio Mental Health Response Ecosystem by Jelynn LeBlanc Jamison, President and Chief Executive Officer of Center for Health Care Services (CHCS) [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]**

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that Items 4 and 5A would be briefed jointly since they covered similar services.

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the item and Jelynn LeBlanc Jamison, President and Chief Executive Officer with the Center for Health Care Services (CHCS). LeBlanc Jamison reviewed the navigation of the mental health system in Bexar County which included identifying the right mental health treatment, review of the mental health ecosystem in Bexar County, local mental health authorities, and an overview of CHCS services.

LeBlanc Jamison reviewed the CHCS funding sources and partners and the contracted services provided to the City of San Antonio and other partners, and the evolution of community crisis services already provided. LeBlanc Jamison provided an overview of services provided by the Civilian Crisis Outreach Teams at CHCS and the metrics of services provided.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reminded the Committee that the City had a contract with STRAC to provide services.

Councilmember Sandoval entered the Committee Meeting at this time.

Eric Epley, Executive Director of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), provided an overview of the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative (STCC) and reviewed the crisis response process for the SA-CORE Program and services provided to individuals. He noted that STCC provided services for psychiatric, mental and physical health issues. Epley stated that the STCC had developed different multidisciplinary teams to address all the areas of emergency crisis situations and reviewed the SA-CORE Program service goals, program partner organizations, and implementation timeline of the STCC to include approval by City Council.

LeBlanc Jamison reviewed investment opportunities to provide duplicate STCC model to include community/pre-crisis services to other communities and discussed the SAT Coalition goals and metrics. LeBlanc Jamison noted that it was important to develop a Center Advisory Council (CAC) which would be comprised of at least 51% of individuals who were consumers of provided services, community partners, and others and stated that CHCS would be ready to lead the CAC.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how CAC members would be assigned. LeBlanc Jamison stated that the CHCS board reviewed the nominees and assigned them to the CAC. Chair Cabello Havrda asked that the City be able to appoint members to the CAC and LeBlanc Jamison stated that it would be considered.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the call identification of needed services process. Epley stated that training was provided to team members and reviewed the training and dispatch of services once a call was made. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that CSCH and City staff would provide metrics of services to the City Council at the 12 month period.

Chair Cabello Havrda requested clarification on the funding of services provided. LeBlanc Jamison reviewed the funding of services provided. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she appreciated the offer of CHCS to manage the CAC services and noted that this could possibly be performed with a pilot program, but the item needed further review. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that CHCS was a vital partner with the City of San Antonio in addressing mental health issues.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that the contact information for CHCS was not always readily available and asked how to address this issue. LeBlanc Jamison stated that CHCS would address marketing efforts to educate the community and provided public contact information to the committee. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if a separate committee could be created to address recommendations and then present to the Public Safety Committee with recommendations to the proposed program. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that a new advisory committee would require City Council approval based on the desired scope of charge. She stated that staff would do analysis and provide feedback to the committee for action.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification on the process for funding CAC and asked that a funding place holder be placed in the upcoming budget discussion. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that a place holder would be added.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification on the caller process to identify needed services. Epley reviewed the process and noted that the 9-1-1 process would be utilized and then caller directed to needed services to include EMS, SAFD or mental health services. Deputy City Manager Villagomez provided further clarification on the call identification services. Councilmember Sandoval expressed her concern of current process and need to further identify other options. Councilmember Sandoval suggested that an Ad-Hoc Committee to include Councilmember representation to identify issues during pilot program.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how homeless services were being included in the current mental health services. LeBlanc Jamison stated that service teams worked closely to identify all issues and worked with Haven for Hope to address needed services.

Councilmember Perry asked for additional detailed information on funding of services,

expenditures and other revenue. LeBlanc Jamison stated that CHCS budget information would be provided. Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the CHCS program goals and for specific metrics. LeBlanc Jamison stated that actual target information and actual law enforcement interception data would be provided. Councilmember Perry stated that it was important to review the report provided by the Texas Center for Justice and Equity. Councilmember Perry stated that he would not support an additional program at this time.

Councilmember Viagran asked if CHCS staff worked with individuals who were recently released from prison. LeBlanc Jamison stated that staff worked with the individual and based on the mental health issues identified and would determine what other services would be dispatched to include EMS or Law Enforcement services. Councilmember Viagran stated that she supported the proposed pilot program but did not support another ad-hoc committee to address concerns since there were several board and commissions available to provide information and input. Councilmember Viagran noted that she also wanted to be provided a summary of costs and budget for the program.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that she anticipated support and asked for update on mental health ecosystem update from staff at future date. Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification of magistrate services provided with the County. McManus stated that the City worked closely with the County and that City courts also worked closely with SAPD to identify needed mental health services.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he supported a second location to be identified for services and asked that it be in area servicing the Black community.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked what the cost of an additional committee be. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that she anticipated the cost being \$7M based on other committees. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she did not support an additional team.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to for staff to further explore options for mental health response program options. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Sandoval

**No:** Perry

5. The Public Safety Committee will receive a briefing on the implementation of two Police Services Review Project initiatives approved within the FY 2022 Adopted Budget. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]
  - Update on the Multidisciplinary Team (SA Core) Pilot Program to address mental health calls [Eric Epley, Executive Director, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Committee (STRAC)]
  - Update on the City's response to domestic violence calls by increasing the civilian Crisis

Response Team in Metro Health to provide 24/7 services at the South, East, and West Police Substations [Claude Jacobs, Director, Health]

Item 5B was introduced by Villagomez and she stated that Metro Health Director Claud Jacob would provide an overview of the Item.

Jacob provided an overview of the expansion of the domestic violence response services and provided a reviewed the number of domestic violence calls received, types of calls, areas calls were received and the adopted budget for the program to include expansion of staff and services/responses from staff and partner advocates. Jacob reviewed the process of crisis response services, process and case management. Jacob stated that a plot program to support law enforcement to screen for lethality was in place that worked with STRAC, University Health System, Bexar County Sheriff Office and Family Violence Prevention Team. He noted the City was expanding community outreach and education efforts and expanding staff to provide these services and reviewed developed outreach and education materials. Jacob provided an overview of the DV program implementation timeline.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she had worked on a crisis response team for seven years and asked for an update of this program to the committee to make sure that services continued in the community. She expressed concern that there were no identified program prosecution or measurement of person committing the domestic violence and trusted that law enforcement would address the prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Briefing on Complaint & Administrative Review Board (CARB) civilian appointments to fill existing vacancies. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Police Chief]

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that this item would not be considered at this meeting due to meeting time constraints and that materials would be provided to Committee Members.

### **Executive Session**

No Executive Session was held.

### **Consideration of items for future meetings**

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2022.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.

**Approved**

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*Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair*

**Respectfully Submitted**

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*Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk*