



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 16

Agenda Date: May 19, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Mental Health Unit Expansion grant.

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the application and acceptance of grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the BJA FY 2022 Invited to Apply - Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2021, Government & Public Affairs (GPA) requested that the SAPD submit Congressional Funding Project recommendations for consideration. Among the proposals submitted was the expansion of the Mental Health Unit (MHU). This proposal focused on addressing community concerns as it relates to people undergoing a mental health crisis and their interaction with law enforcement. This activity would be carried out through the expansion of the days and times that the MHU was available. Currently, the MHU operates during two shifts (7:00am – 3:00pm and 3:00pm to 11:00pm). MHU consists of a total of 22 positions: one sergeant,

two detectives and nineteen officers.

This grant will be used to expand coverage past 11:00 pm through to 3:00 am by utilizing overtime (\$200K). Additionally, overtime funds (\$100K) will be available for the Mental Health Unit to carry out activities (primarily training) outside of the general coverage they provide. There is also funding (\$65K) to conduct training which will focus both externally and internally, to include presenting at conferences and conventions. Funds are also provided (\$400K) to contract/hire additional Crisis Response Clinicians to operate with the Mental Health Unit during all hours the unit is active (regular shifts and overtime).

Crisis Response Clinicians (CRC) work in collaboration with public safety agencies to include law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under the guidance of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC). As part of this team, the Crisis Response Clinician will respond to 9-1-1 mental health-related calls. The CRC serves as the subject matter expert in triage, assessment, de-escalation, and care navigation, provides direct services for consumers and completes associated case management documentation for the consumer and program. The CRC works within a multidisciplinary team (SA CORE) to provide an array of direct (face-to-face) and indirect clinical services to adults in a person-centered, trauma-informed, individualized focused approach utilizing evidenced-based practices delivered to fidelity. These services are delivered in multiple types of settings including field-based services in the individual's home or other identified locations as well as clinic-based services.

The grant will fund program services for the period of May 2022 through August 2023.

ISSUE:

The proposed ordinance continues the City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for programs which enhance mental health services to the community as well as provide training for Officers to improve services to the community by assisting, rather than arresting, individuals who are in a mental health crisis.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council could elect to not accept the grant and forego the additional funding to expand Department's Mental Health Unit services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance appropriates funds and sets up a budget in the amount of \$1 Million for the expansion of the SAPD Mental Health Unit. There is no grant match requirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council authorize acceptance of the grant in support of the Mental Health Unit.