

Forward Together – Alternative Response Ad Hoc meeting

January 18, 2022 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Via TEAMS

Attendees: Will Kelly, Linda Mayo, Michael Baldwin, Leah Ashford, Dan Starr, Trish Christensen, Edgar Garcia, Tom Helm

Will: Opened the meeting, and passed the meeting over to Leah

Leah: Opened the meeting by asking participants to speak to how their holidays were? After the entire group responded Leah went on to open the discussion by asking for ideas for recommendation.

Linda Mayo: reiterated the desire for a non-law enforcement response to mental health crisis

Ruben Imperial: spoke of the presentation and how it was designed to highlight options for the community to consider.

Leah: Queried the group as to whether the group should take one model to the main work group. Robust discussion occurred and it was determined that next steps would include a deeper look at 3 models for alternate response. Ruben Imperial agreed.

Solange: State a concern for clinicians responding to violent situations

Assistant Chief Ivan: responded to Solange's concern with clarifying that the intention would be for the M-cert model to respond to these type of situations.

Leah: Expressed the need for the existence of both models, i.e. The CHAT model and the M-Cert model.

Discussion shifted to the funding of the programs. And discussion about grants and other creative ways to pay for the programs. Edgar clarified the goal and purpose of the ad-hoc is to focus on the "What" not the "How" .The Budget is not the issue for the group.

Solange: stated if we want the services we should be willing to pay for it. It should not be solely up to the council to try to figure out how to pay for it.

Michael: Focused the group by stating at this time let's focus on the issue at hand. What model or models would work for the city? Possibly in future discussions we can track some possible funding options.

Ruben: began talking about the next steps for the CHAT program and for M-Cert. And that there is a commitment to keep learning.

Leah: Should we take a vote to decide on which models to focus upon and begin writing on our recommendations?

Ruben: Let's develop both models first and continue talking so that we can make informed decisions.

Edgar: Spoke of these discussion set the stage for informed decisions and the recommendations.

Leah: Do we want to focus on the models that have been shared or do we want to look for additional models.

Trish: Provides a brief summary of what has been discussed and learned about each model.

Linda Mayo: Is there a clinician with CHAT?

Ruben: No clinician

Trish: We need to know what's working with CHAT. And what do we need in order to expand?

SGT. Daniel Starr: He would love to see the CHAT expanded. Need to continue to roll out partners. Information sharing is critical

Leah: Is there a process for identifying those mentally ill? Should a collaborative group be formed to come up with recommendations?

Solange: Hipaa is not unique to our County. So let's see what others are doing?

Leah: Should we meet with the current CHAT program

Assistant Chief Ivan: I will make sure CHAT is here at the next ad-hoc meeting.

Ruben: How are we dealing with repeat mental health issues?

Trish: How do they keep getting their medications?

Ruben: responded about follow up care and treatment, Conservatorship and the other options. He reiterated that in many cases medication is voluntary. Consider having nurses out in the field to issue medication. Yet the fact remains, medication is voluntary.

Will: offered the following concept recommendation which were approved by consensus:

- scale up existing programs (i.e. CHAT and MCERT) to at least the levels identified by the Chief in the Nov presentation and secure long-term funding
- build and strengthen partnerships with relevant county departments and providers with an emphasis on timely information sharing

Will: Asked for closing thoughts from each person.

Ruben: As we implement lets work together, share data, some level of community partnership.

Thomas: Hope that we develop something that looks like forward together. Collective idea sharing.

Meeting adjourned.