

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**March 13, 2019**

**10:00 am**

**Committee Room B**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Shelley Grant

Phyllis Hall

Darcel Harris-Absent

Preston Harris

Carolyn Herman

Vicki Waytowich

Joe Peppers, Subject Matter Expert

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction – Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:04 am

Chairperson Grant convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the second meeting of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee and the group focused upon defining the vision and mission statements, and identifying short and long term (population specific) goals. Ms. Grant talked about the criminalization of mental health and substance abuse, wherein the jails have become the largest providers for mental health issues. After discussion, the members agreed on a general vision for the subcommittee in which every Jacksonville resident has equal access to utilize mental health and substance abuse services. The subcommittee’s mission statement verbiage is still being ironed out, but the main theme is that the mission is to improve social health and wellbeing by increasing early assessment and access to affordable care and reduce the stigma and criminalization of mental health/substance abuse through education and collaboration.

The subcommittee talked about several other topics: the effects of food scarcity and housing instability on mental health, the specific challenges to children who are in foster care, the need for more frequent mental health screenings, the social stigma associated with mental health issues and accessing care, an upcoming July event (a “Teen Ted” talk about mental health and youth violence), the financial costs of using jails to treat mental health issues (11 times what it would cost outside the jail) and criminal behavior as a symptom from trauma.

The subcommittee talked about goals. One goal will be to create public service announcements to destigmatize mental health and substance abuse issues in a public relations campaign like that used to reach veterans battling PTSD and suicide. These PSAs may include elected officials or real Jacksonville residents speaking about the topic of mental health. A second goal will be to increase the frequency of mental health screenings for children in the juvenile justice system and beyond. A third goal will be the creation of a trauma response plan for post crises management.

The subcommittee discussed invitations for guest speakers for the next meeting. Mary Tobin, Chief Operations Officer of the Kids Hope Alliance, will be invited to speak about building collaborative relationships with faith based groups. Newtown Success Zone Executive Director George Maxey and a representative from Baptist Health will be asked to attend as well to talk about trauma response and community outreach.

Public comment was offered by Melissa Kerce, Yoga 4 Change, who spoke about a recent training her organization conducted for teachers to help them identify signs of trauma in their students. According to her estimates, all Duval Public School teachers could be similarly trained for $48,000. Ms. Kerce also suggested utilizing college interns to help with the production of PSAs. The comment card is on file.

With no further business, Chairperson Grant adjourned the meeting. The next Mental Health and Substance Abuse subcommittee meeting date has yet to be announced and may include a review of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results in Jacksonville broken down by health zone.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:54 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey @coj.net (904) 630-1498

Posted 3.18.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 3.13.19 (Recording unavailable due to technical difficulties)