



## JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

### **Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee: Access to Healthcare Working Group Meeting Minutes**

**October 13, 2022**

**1:00 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

**Topic:** Critical Quality of Life Issues Special Committee: Access to Healthcare Working Group

**Attendance:** Council President Freeman; Council Members Newby, Boylan, and Salem; Elizabeth Payne - Northeast Florida Regional Council; Trista Carraher - Council Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey - Council Research Division

**Subject Matter Experts:** Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine; Paul Sapia, Humana; Ann-Marie Knight, VP Community Engagement UF Health; Nicole Hamm, Blue Zones Project

**Convened:** 1:05 pm

Council Member Newby convened the meeting and called for introductions.

Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine, welcomed the group and said that this meeting would focus on a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis. Paul Sapia, Humana, welcomed the group and said that these meetings are the chance for experts to be heard.

Ann-Marie Knight, UF Health, gave a presentation about their contract with the City. She said that UF Jacksonville is an essential hospital, in that it has a trauma center, provides indigent care and is a teaching hospital. UF Health has 2 full-service hospitals in Jacksonville, and more than 60 clinics and specialty care centers in NE Florida and SE Georgia. Ms. Knight said that UF Health received \$35 million from the City in FY 22 and is budgeted to receive \$40 million in FY 23. She also said the cost of care exceeds the funding each year. Regarding expenses, Ms. Knight explained the rising costs for labor/salaries in the past three years, including increases in overtime pay and incentives related to the pandemic. Ms. Knight described the Shands card program, which provides six-tiered sliding scale financial assistance to Duval residents who apply with a family adjusted income less than 200% of current federal poverty guidelines. The application, per City contract terms, must be renewed every six months. Speaking to patient demographics, Ms. Knight said that they have patients throughout the city, but the majority of those they serve live in zip codes 32209, 32218 and 32208. There are roughly equal proportions of black and white patients and the bulk of the patients are aged 45-64. Ms. Knight talked about case management upon discharge and how that promotes better health outcomes and fewer readmissions. She described some of their innovative health initiatives, such as the food pharmacy (prescriptive nutrition program for diabetic, hypertensive, obese or other chronic patients who are food insecure) and social service hub (non-profit organizations provide one-on-one, group and tele-social services support).

There was a discussion and questions and answer session between the attendees and the panel. The following healthcare issues for consideration were discussed:

- Revising tax loopholes to provide more funding for healthcare
- How to expand access
- Transportation for dialysis patients (Palmer Kuder, JTA, said she will share more about service options at a later meeting)
- Barriers to healthcare for those with disabilities
- Insurance as a roadblock to healthcare
- Special taxing district for UF Health

Nicole Hamm, Blue Zones Project, gave a presentation about their program. She said the Blue Zones mission is to empower everyone, everywhere to live longer, better. Stemming from anthropological research that identified five worldwide hot spots for life quality and longevity, Blue Zones endeavors to use data from those populations to help people in other parts of the world to do the same. Ms. Hamm said that there are nine commonalities for Blue Zone residents: movement, purpose, rest, eating until 80 percent full, plant-based diets, wine consumption, connected social environment, family support and a sense of belonging. She said that Blue Zones hopes to transform health outcomes in Jacksonville with a focus on people, policy and places in coordination with schools, businesses, local government policies, faith groups, food providers and the community. Ms. Hamm mentioned other Blue Zones Project locations that have seen improvements in health and well-being in Minnesota, California and Texas. Carnell Oliver suggested that Blue Zones work with CM White to reach folks living in more rural parts of the city.

Jennifer Ryan explained the process for the SWOT analysis, with attendees working in groups to answer various questions such as: how/where we are increasing access to care; what our greatest resources are; what knowledge/resources are we lacking; what disadvantages do we have; what may cause problems in the future; what needs are not being met; what are our obstacles for success. All of the responses will be compiled into one list and shared and discussed at the next meeting.

#### Public Comment

Carnell Oliver spoke about expanding Medicaid eligibility in Florida.

Tyler Morris spoke about healthcare disparities and how access can mean many things.

The focus for the next meeting will be reviewing the SWOT and policy discussion, scheduled for October 27, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

**Adjourned:** 2:39 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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