



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

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

November 7, 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 Members Newby, Boylan, and Salem; Noel Comeaux - Northeast Florida Regional Council; Colleen Hampsey - Council Research Division

Subject Matter Experts: Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine; Paul Sapia, Humana

Convened: 1:03 pm

Council Member Newby convened the meeting and called for introductions. He extended appreciation to his co-chairs for their leadership. CM Boylan reviewed the committee's charge and went over the next steps. The CQLI Special Committee will meet on November 17th to discuss the first draft of the final report, the report will be finalized at the December 7th meeting, and then presented to council at the last council meeting before the holidays – December 13th.

Jennifer Ryan, CEO Volunteers in Medicine, welcomed the group and said that this meeting would focus on policy recommendations. She noted that whatever recommendations the group decides upon should enhance existing services and yield results. Paul Sapia, Humana, welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their participation in this process.

Ms. Ryan spoke about policy recommendations that have arisen through the group's work, such as evaluating and updating the UF Health city contract to allow patients in Duval County to requalify annually instead of every 6 months and creating an Access to Healthcare Task Force (like the Safety & Crime Task Force) by assigning one or two Council Members to lead the task force. Financial policy recommendations may include \$550,000 City funding annually to expand access to health information and expand capacity to link the uninsured to appropriate care (\$200,000 to Jax CareConnect to have a representative in all Emergency Rooms every day, \$50,000 to each of the seven Duval Safety Net Collaborative and specialty care providers to expand access to healthcare). It was also suggested to work with City grant writers to seek out federal funding from the CDC, etc.

CVP Salem said that questions about continuous funding across Administrations should be asked of candidates running for office next year. Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher, said that healthcare is more than just medical services, but also includes mental health, dental, pediatrics and substance abuse treatment. Carnell Oliver asked about creating a special taxing district for UF Health and indigent care. CM Newby said that is a state level decision.

The following other topics were mentioned in the discussion:

- KHA model for healthcare, wherein a governmental department oversees and coordinates health programs with grant funded service providers
- Permitting audit expenses for required annual audits for safety net providers to be an allowable expense
- Not duplicating existing social services in hospitals
- Selecting a specific health initiative to focus on
- Culture shift away from emergency rooms as primary care providers
- Health literacy educational campaign
- Collaboration among service providers, not silos
- Adolescent healthcare as prevention
- Social determinants of health
- Specialist 'deserts' particularly obstetrics
- Transportation obstacles due to availability or cost
- Broadband access for telehealth
- Political will to affect real change
- Equitable access to healthcare for those with disabilities

Public Comment: none

The next meeting for the full Special Committee on Critical Quality of Life Issues will be November 17th at 1:00 pm to discuss the first draft of the final report.

Adjourned: 1:56 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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