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RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES:  
Holistic Facilities (Behavioral, Mental, Physical & Spiritual health) Working Group  
Meeting Minutes**

**September 29, 2023  
1:00 pm**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall

**In attendance:** Council Members Rahman Johnson and Michael Boylan; via Zoom: Professor Henrich, Dr. Welch, Gerald Butler, Dennis Gamble, Brandon Mack, Tyrica Young

**Also:** Carla Lopera, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened:** 1:18 pm

Chairman Johnson welcomed the group and called for introductions. He made remarks wishing the best for CM Freeman who recently disclosed a health issue and will be starting treatment for prostate cancer. CM Boylan spoke briefly about the progress and format of the other 4 working groups.

CM Johnson described his vision for the charge of the Holistic, Behavioral, Mental, Physical & Spiritual health working group, to include a comprehensive assessment of what wellness looks like in the jail for both the inmates and “teammates” (corrections staff). CM Johnson said that the final non-binding recommendations made by this working group will be presented to the Sheriff for his consideration. He said the group will consider what the inmates’ and teammates’ needs are, what conditions are required for safe and healthy surroundings, access to health care and medications while incarcerated, the effect of solitary confinement, deaths inside the jail, video monitoring inside the jail, and chronic condition maintenance for inmates. He suggested a gym or exercise space for corrections staff as a method to relieve stress, and he spoke about the connection between recidivism and spirituality and yoga, meditation, and family connections. Mr. Gamble weighed in with a story about a family member killed in a violent crime and noted that the jail inmates are incarcerated for committing crimes and as such shouldn’t be pampered.

CM Johnson spoke about the format for the Holistic working group, and suggested it be divided into 3 subgroups to examine 3 areas of wellness: behavioral/mental, physical and spiritual. He said each subgroup would be led by a different co-chair who will work with subject matter experts, report back to the Holistic working group who will in turn report back to the JSO Primary Facilities special committee as a whole.

Carla Lopera, OGC, gave an overview about Sunshine Law communication restrictions and the maintaining of public records. She explained that a physical quorum is required for a committee or subcommittee to take action.

CM Johnson opened the floor for a discussion with those in attendance in-person and remotely. Ms. Wood talked about the quality of nutrition in the food provided in the jail, literacy, and maintaining contact with the outside through letter writing to family or clergy members. Dr. Welch via Zoom concurred with the point about nutrition, noting that she has seen inmates in their 20's at the state prison with elevated blood pressure and other health concerns.

Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher, talked about the importance of focusing upon mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder, noting that there should be a subcommittee dedicated to just those things. She talked about the trauma from experiencing sexual abuse and how a significant percentage of those who are incarcerated have been abused in their past. She discussed the correlation between trauma and crime and homelessness, and she said that the jail should be a trauma informed facility. She suggested inviting Dr. Christine Cauffield, CEO of LSF Health Systems, to be one of the co-chairs. Demetri Brewer said that the juvenile detention staff receives trauma informed training.

Laura Viafora Ray, JFRD Opioid Abatement Coordinator, talked about the high risk of overdoses for those with opioid use disorders after they are released from jail because they do not have access to medically assisted treatment medications (MATs) while incarcerated. There is a drug treatment program for some inmates, the Matrix program, which provides counseling but not MATs.

Daniel Henry talked about how the jail facility houses many inmates in pre-trial detention, presumed innocent, and he emphasized respecting their humanity with decent treatment regardless of why they are in there or how their case ends up being adjudicated.

There was a discussion about creating a schedule for the working group and subgroups. CM Johnson said that the working group will meet on the first and third Friday of each month depending on room and staff availability. The composition of the subgroups, to include co-chairs and subject matter experts, is still being determined.

With no further business, CM Johnson adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 2:48 pm**

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

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