



JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 20200422-02B

Date: April 22, 2020

Subject: Support of the Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Commission Budget Recommendation on mental health services.

Motioned By: Solis

Seconded By: Orlowski

Recommendation

The Joint Inclusion Committee supports the Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Commission Budget Recommendation on mental health services.

Description of Recommendation to Council

See attached.

Rationale:

The Joint Inclusion Committee strengthens connections between City boards and commissions concerned with quality of life in Austin and advises the City Council on issues pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion. This resolution furthers equity, diversity and inclusion.

Vote

For: Briesemeister, Austen, Solis, Crawford, Stanton, Curry, Orlowski

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weigel, Jones

Attest:

Jane Briesemeister, Chair

Form Name: Commission Budget Recommendation Form
Submission Time: April 24, 2020 2:20 pm
Browser: Chrome 81.0.4044.122 / Windows
IP Address: 66.90.190.251
Unique ID: 604128692
Location:

Your Information

Your Name	Felicia Pena
Your Commission	Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission
Email	BC-Amanda.Afifi@austintexas.gov
After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?	Is there funding? Which department holds the funding? Which orgs receive it? How is success measured? What are the impacts, and gaps?

Root Cause Analysis

Story: What did you hear from the community?	There is a need to expand mental health services for the Latinx community, including LGBTQIA+ communities, veterans, youth, families, and survivors of abuse. Addressing mental health concerns within these communities can potentially stop cycles of abuse and trauma. We also heard that victims of crimes are not receiving the appropriate support they need to process and heal from the traumatizing event they witnessed and/or experienced.
Problem: What is the problem you identify?	There is a lack of affordable and accessible mental health resources for women, families, LGBTQIA+ communities, veterans, and survivors of abuse and the agencies that are currently providing these services need additional funding to expand services. Additional funding is needed to allow agencies to hire additional social workers, expand to provide services in schools and additional neighborhoods/communities, and align with City of Austin efforts to serve Latinx communities.
How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?	Lack of mental health resources can lead to issues in the home, work, school, and public. Untreated mental health issues leads to an increase in overall suicide rates, and suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the US for people of all ages. Characteristics of mental health problems may be misinterpreted by APD, and lead to unnecessary arrests and criminal records. Communities that are most impacted by this issue are Latinx women, families, LGBTQIA+ communities, veterans, and survivors of abuse.
Is there funding to address the problem?	Yes
