




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager 

DATE: October 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Update on Mental Health Diversion Initiative

During the FY 2020-21 budget process, the City Council requested the City Manager execute a contract with a project manager to fully implement the program recommended in the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas (MMHPI) report, ["Recommendations for First Responder Mental Health Calls for Service"](#), which was initially adopted and funded by Council in Fiscal Year 2019-20.

City Council requested the following criteria for the project manager:

1. The project manager shall analyze data, set an implementation schedule, establish goals and report to City Council. The report will focus on achieving Council's goals, including establishing the earliest date by which 100% of all calls with a mental health component which do not pose a risk to public safety shall be diverted from a law enforcement response.
2. The project manager shall coordinate the full implementation of an alternative response to behavioral crisis emergency calls as found in the MMHPI report - The project manager shall be responsible for optimizing program processes, procedures and achievement of goals.
3. The project manager shall participate in meetings, as requested by the City Manager, to develop community input for implementation of the recommendations from the MMHPI May 2019 report.
4. The project manager shall regularly track and report to City Council and the community the program's progress, achievement of goals, and any additional resources needed to timely achieve goals.

5. The project manager may utilize the work of the City's Innovation Office and/or consult with the Dell Medical School data exchange experts.

At your October 1, 2020 meeting, Council will consider staff's request to execute a contract with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas to fully implement the recommendations from their report and the aforementioned criteria. This agency has a deep understanding of the program, the community work involved in developing it, and experience working with the City and other cities in developing recommendations to redesign first response programs.

Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS) leadership will serve as the City's project manager and will work closely with the Meadow's project manager to ensure Council's direction is met. The kick-off meeting for this project to outline goals and begin establishing a timeline is scheduled for October 5, 2020.

Please contact me or Assistant Chief Andy Hofmeister (Andy.Hofmeister@austintexas.gov, 512.978.0120) should you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
CMO Executive Team
Chief Ernesto Rodriguez, ATCEMS Chief
Assistant Chief Andy Hofmeister, ATCEMS