



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230322-006
HEALTH PRIORITY – EMDR THERAPY FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS**

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation; EMDR Therapy for Sexual Assault Survivors – (JIC Health Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Rebecca Austen Seconded By: Commissioner Amy Temperley

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Joint Inclusion Committee (“Committee”) of the City of Austin (“City”) advises City Council (“Council”) on issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) is a psychotherapy treatment that was originally designed to alleviate the distress associated with traumatic memories and other adverse life experiences such as sexual assault, and to resolve unprocessed traumatic memories and develop cognitive insights and limit emotional stress; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City-Community Reimagining Public Safety Task Force presented recommendations including the funding of community-centered interventions which reduce harm and address the root cause of systemic inequities which often lead to crime, and subsequently the City of Austin funded efforts such as the YWCA’s Trauma Resolution Center (which offers EMDR therapy as well as other modalities); and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has previously supported efforts to provide survivors of sexual assault with EMDR therapy via funds allocated to the Austin Police Department Victim Services unit, which were used to provide training to therapists in exchange for providing services to survivors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Committee recommends that the City of Austin allocate investments in the FY2023-24 budget to continue provision of EMDR therapy services to survivors of sexual assault, including funding to:

- Continue efforts such as the YWCA’s Trauma Resolution Center
- Train additional therapists in EMDR, and contract trained therapists to provide discounted or pro bono services to survivors, and
- Maintain a Coordinator for the APD Victim Services EMDR training and referral program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang
Commission for Women: Rebecca Austen
Commission on Aging: Amy Temperley
Early Childhood Council: Raul Alvarez
Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life-Resource Advisory Commission: Amanda Afifi
LGBTQ+ Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Charles Curry
Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities: Jennifer Powell

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commission on Immigrant Affairs: Juan Vences-Benitez
Human Rights Commission: Idonna Griffith

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza