

**COMBAT Commission Meeting**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00 AM – 11:27 AM**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Larry Beaty, Liz Williams, Arimeta DuPree, Stephanie Burton, Alfred Jordan, Mark Bryant, Lanna Ultican, Joseph Spalitto

**Also Present:**

Captain Graves, Major Kirchhoff, Joe Loudon, Bob Muenz, Shannon Bobo, Dawna Shumate, Andrea Gray, Vince Ortega, Joseph Cho, Tammie Jordan, Kisha Briggs, Dan Cummings, Michael Mansur, Keron Hopkins, Sharee Mims, Courtney Crespo, Luis (KCPD), Carolyn Whitney, Branden Mims, Jennifer Dameron

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

**Minutes Approved:**

Arimeta DePree motioned to approve January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes; motion was approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:**

Jackson County COMBAT: Director's Report

- COMBAT Communications Administrator Joe Loudon made a community impact report that explains what COMBAT is and what it does for the community. The report contains information about what agencies receive funding from COMBAT, how much funding they received, and how many clients each type of program (prevention, treatment, etc.) has served.
- COMBAT STRIVIN Referral Dashboard: Social Service Determinants of Health
  1. Trauma – 304 Referrals (13.56%)
  2. Employment – 202 Referrals (9.01%)
  3. Utility Assistance – 157 Referrals (7%)
  4. Income – 152 Referrals (6.78%)
  5. Mental Health – 135 Referrals (6.02%)

Carolyn Whitney, Director, Raytown STRIVIN Hub

- Carolyn Whitney describes the Raytown STRIVIN hub's intake process: Sisters in Christ sometimes starts with canvassing efforts—when a neighbor expresses a need, the referral form is filled out. An assessment is conducted to better understand that need and the client is referred to the appropriate resource.

#### Jackson County Prosecutors Office

- Several months prior to this meeting, the Prosecutors Office and KCPD decided to reach out to every bullet-to-skin victim and homicide victim's families (unless the KCPD indicates that a potential client should not be contacted). The Midtown hub received basic contact information through the CCL database and found that over half the contacts were interested in receiving services.

#### Branden Mims, Director, Midtown STRIVIN Hub

- Branden Mims illustrated how effective the STRIVIN initiative is by sharing a success story: Mims was able to help a bullet-to-skin victim who had been shot and needed a wheelchair and a bedside commode. Through the STRIVIN process, the Midtown hub was able to get the client the items he needed within the week.
  - o Mark Bryant says, while he is in no way minimizing the services we are providing, he wants to know if COMBAT can demonstrate any reduction in any category of crime. There were 2 responses to his question:
    1. Vince Ortega – The project is still new—and STRIVIN is standardizing how we collect crime data so we'll be able to show a reduction in crime through those statistics. Early data collection revealed that victims of crimes may retaliate, so COMBAT hired conflict resolution to intervene in cases where that may happen. Early data collection also revealed social determinants of health that caused violence were a dual diagnosis of mental health and addiction.
    2. Michael Mansur – A practical reason for providing services to victims is that non-fatal shooting victims have a high likelihood of being revictimized or even killed within a few years. By intervening now, we may be preventing more violence in the future.

#### Alfred Jordan, COMBAT Commissioner

- Omaha 360 started in 2009. In a decade, the initiative was able to bring their homicides down by 50%. Alfred Jordan mentions this because the Omaha 360 model is very similar to the STRIVIN initiative in the sense that churches, schools, police, and community organizations partnered together to bring down the homicide rate.
  - o Vince Ortega comments that STRIVIN is like "Omaha 360 on steroids", as it is very Comprehensive and has an online social service application that is the infrastructure for communication, collaboration and coordination of resources. to the community in need—Branden Mims elaborates and says the STRIVIN initiative *is* "on steroids" because the initiative serves an entire county (as opposed to one especially specific violent area of a single city).

#### Kansas City Police Department

- There have been 25 homicides to date, compared to the 30 homicides that took place at that same time the previous year.
- Shootings are up 7%

- KCPD recently detained a notorious drug dealer than had been bullying the Northeast area for years. They confiscated a substantial number of guns and methamphetamine.
  - o A summary report and stats sheets have been sent to Vince Ortega

#### Jackson County Drug Task Force

- A delivery out of California arrived at the edge of Independence carrying 15 pounds of fentanyl—along with methamphetamine and some other things. What followed was a multiple day standoff that ended in 3 officers getting hurt.
- Another delivery from Texas that was investigated and stopped had around 21 pounds of methamphetamine.
- The Drug Task Force is focusing heavily on fentanyl. When there's overdoses, the Drug Task Force gets involved in those investigations so they can file charges against the dealers.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### Larry Beaty, COMBAT Commissioner

- Larry Beaty would like to see more TV coverage on local networks to make the public aware of the success COMBAT has had.
  - o Vince Ortega says we're working on it—and that increasing the visibility of COMBAT's work is in the strategic plan.

#### **MOTION:**

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Next meeting is August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023