

COMBAT Commission Meeting
January 17th, 2024 11:07 AM – 11:29 AM
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Present: Elizabeth Williams, Larry Beaty, Joseph Spalitto, Alfred Jordan, Arimeta DuPree

Also Present: Vince Ortega, Dawna Shumate, Joe Loudon, Elle Larson, Keron Hopkins, Shannon Bobo, Jamie Brown, Jean Peters Baker, Jennifer Dameron, Doug Niemeier

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM.

DISCUSSION:

- Commissioner Beaty voices concerns about defunding Hope Faith Homelessness Assistance and asks the agency will not be receiving COMBAT funding in 2024.
 - o Vince Ortega says that COMBAT's expert outside evaluators noted that Hope Faith lacked long-term programming. Vince also adds that he gave the contact information of Hope Faith's executive director, Doug Langner, to the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)—as that department funds a wide range of programs and organizations.
- Commissioner Williams inquires about the feasibility of distributing declination letters sooner rather than later, so applying agencies can pursue funding elsewhere.
 - o Vince Ortega says COMBAT will look at ways it can expedite that process.
- Commissioner Jordan asks if the budget cuts were targeted at specific agencies for specific reasons or if it was just a general budget cut that COMBAT needed to work with.
 - o Vince Ortega responds that the latter was exactly what happened. The treatment agencies requested and were recommended to receive the most funding, so COMBAT decided to spread out the reductions among some of the treatment agencies. However, it is important to note that the treatment agencies that were affected will still be receiving significant increases in funding compared to the previous year—even with the budget reduction.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Commission meeting minutes from November & January will need to be reviewed and approved at the next COMBAT Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Williams moves to accept the budget reduction. Commissioner Beaty seconds.
 - o All voted in favor—none were opposed.
- Commissioner Jordan raised concerns about voting procedures, suggesting a roll call vote for clarity. Commissioner Spalitto also suggests using the polling tool through Zoom to record accurate votes.
 - o Elle Larson says she will investigate methods for accurate voting and present them to the Commissioners at the next meeting.
- The Commissioners discussed improvements in communication and publicity for COMBAT initiatives.

MOTION:

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Next meeting is March 12th, 2024