

Drug Commission Meeting
August 14, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm
Healing House, 4505 St. John Ave, Kansas City, MO 64123

Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Gene Morgan
Mark S. Bryant
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Larry Beaty
Dr. Joseph Spalitto

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
Frank White, JACO Executive
Jaime Masters, County Executive Office
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Steven Tucker, Housing Authority
Edwin Lowndes, Housing Authority
Hanni Woelk, ReStart
Stephani Khalifah, Housing Authority
Teesha Miller, PDMP
Carol Lillis, COMBAT
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mark Bryant motioned to approve July minutes; Dr. Joseph Spalitto seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Helen Burke with KCPD reported that there were 610 narcotics arrests and that narcotic purchases have decreased by 16%, 23 lbs. of Cocaine have been seized, 260 lbs. of Meth have been seized, 2,806 lbs. of Marijuana have been seized, and 8 lbs. of Heroin have been seized. There have been several interdictions with THC and Marijuana.

Drug Commissioner Chairman Jim Witteman asked if the shootings were drug related and they were. Vince asked if the shootings were in the hotspots to which Major Helen Burke replied that they were. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked if there were more drugs coming in or are the police doing a better job to find it. Major Helen Burke replied that it's a bit of both. THC is a derivative in Marijuana, an active ingredient in Marijuana. Commissioner Mark Bryant asked if Marijuana was a federal or state case. Major Helen Burke replied that it was a state cases. Gene Morgan asked if PCP was increasing, decreasing, or remaining steady to which Major Helen

Burke replied that it's remaining steady. One of the commissioners asked if the increase in Marijuana was due to the fact that it's being brought in from surrounding areas that have legalized Marijuana. Major Helen Burke stated that it does play a part in the increase.

Dan Cummings with the Drug Task Force reported that he didn't have any drug stats. He reported that the JAG Grant Award is slightly up from last year. The Drug Task Force is trying to fill several vacancies. They currently have 15 detectives and would like to have 16 detectives. They have a DBA agent assigned to the Drug Task Force. Dan Cummings reported that the Mexican Cartel is bringing in Cocaine, Heroin, Meth, and Marijuana. There were 2 drug related homicides in Grandview and 1 in Independence.

Commissioner Larry Beaty asked if they were more so structured that the old big time gangsters to which Dan Cummings responded that they are highly structured. Vince asked Dan Cummings to explain what a title 3 was. A title 3 is a wiretap and it's hard to get. Mark Bryant asked if the Municipal Police Departments make up the Drug Task Force. Dan Cummings stated that they do. Mark Bryant asked if most cases were Federal or State and Dan replied that there was a mixture. Mark Bryant asked if there was more Marijuana over PCP, Heroin, and Cocaine. Dan Cummings stated that there was. He mentioned that all of the edibles come from Colorado. Dan reported that his focus is on the Cocaine, Heroin, and Meth, he doesn't focus on the Marijuana.

Old Business:

Hotspot Initiatives

Vince mentioned that there were some commonalities between the hotspot initiatives and that the hotspot initiatives are going well. He would like to use a place to refer and coordinate resources so that they can work together. For example, CSL will be the community hub in Independence like Hope Hangout (Marva) is in South Kansas City. He explained that the TNT program went well for Marva and how she was afraid that it was too police heavy at first but it ended up going well.

Vince mentioned that ESRI/GIS Case Study meeting in Raytown at the Herndon Career Center on August 23rd with Dr. Jomella Thompson to make a structured system for the community hubs. Vince wants a formalized structure.

The Drug Commissioners had positive feedback on the Raytown Hotspot Initiative. Larry Beaty was really impressed with Sisters In Christ and Dr. Joseph Spalitto stated that the meeting went well, Jean Peters Baker is working on another effort with the school. COMBAT partially funded the Center of Conflict Resolution in KCPD and she would like to do something similar in Raytown. She stated that Dr. Travis Hux is interested in the program. Also, she stated that Carolyn Whitney with Sisters In Christ is infectious. Larry Beaty was also impressed with the Northeast KC Initiative and stated that he grew up in the area and didn't know what Mattie Rhodes did in the area.

New Business:

ReStart

Hanni Woelk with ReStart stated that the services that they offer are transitional living for 18 months, Youth Outreach, and another program. ReStart serves the metro area including the Northeast KC area. They work with Samuel Rodgers and Truman Medical Center. Gene Morgan asked if they used street outreach workers for referrals. Hanni replied yes, as well as youth events. ReStart has a homeless youth shelter for 21 days for stable living and substance abuse treatment. They have a youth therapist. Larry Beaty asked if ReStart has any interaction with the City Union Mission and they do. In their youth shelter, they have 10 beds, dorm style and for their transitional living they have 24 beds. Larry Beaty asked what the ages for the youth and transitional living were. The youth are ages 12 -17 while the transitional living is ages 16-22.

Healing House

Bobbi Jo Reed, the founder and director of Healing House, discussed the transitional living services and recovery support that Healing House provides. Healing House has homes for 175 adults and 30 children. They work with Imani House and Comprehensive Mental Health. Healing House has 18 locations and they have been in service for 15 years. They do 6 hours of programming and 2 hours of meetings. Healing House teaches budgeting skills and include hobbies such as crafts, yoga, and line dancing. They operate as a family. Healing House has a 24 hour hope line, peer specialist, and even help their clients with finding food pantries nearby. They provide services all day. Mark Bryant noticed that Healing House has served over 600 people in 2018. He asked how much of this is funded by COMBAT. Bobbi Jo Reed stated that a low percentage is funded by COMBAT and that funding comes from private donors, Recovery Support services, Imani House, and Comprehensive Mental Health. Mark Bryant asked how did Healing House start and Bobbi Jo replied by volunteering with KCC making baked goods.

Housing Authority

Edwin Lowndes, director of Housing Authority, stated that Housing Authority has been in service for 23 years. They have served 19,000 people, 8,000 people through their housing choice program and 11,000 people pay rent. The Housing Authority has the Clymer Center on 12th and Paseo. COMBAT funds their Pemberton Park initiative through Grant Match. It helps families with seniors, 55 and older, on working with their grandchildren for custodial care. The program helps with generational trauma. COMBAT funds \$29,000. They provide stable housing and Edwin Lowndes believes that quality houses changes the mindset of people. If they have quality housing, they want to take care of the area that they are living in. He believes that stable housing leads to less crime. They have partnered with ReStart. Housing Authority does public housing, property managing, and mixed housing. Gene Morgan asked if they receive funding from Federal and HUD and they do.

Jean Peters Baker wants to do a PSA on kids eating edibles and medical marijuana. There's an influx of kids in the ER.

Announcements:

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, September 11th at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 PM.