

Drug Commission Meeting
June 19, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Keith Querry
Lanna Ultican
Gene Morgan
Mark S. Bryant
Melesa Johnson
Larry Beaty
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Dr. Kelvin Walls

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force
Theresa Galvin, County Legislator
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Frank White, County Executive
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Carri Ellis, Journey to New Life
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.

Melesa Johnson motioned to approve the May minutes; Larry Beaty seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Helen Burke with KCPD reported on the KCPD's Board report. There were 21 reported overdoses and 8 of them were revived by Narcan. Last year at this time, there were 39 overdose deaths. However, Helen mentioned that this information could be skewed. She also reported that in the past 2 weeks, there was a bad batch of Heroin and there have been 4 overdose deaths. Narcotic related purchases had increased by 25%, 32% sells on narcotic cases, 45,400 grams of Cocaine recovered, 115,371 grams of Methamphetamine recovered, and 356,095 grams of Marijuana recovered.

Chief Byron Price with the Drug Task Force reported on the Drug Task Force's Board report for May 2018. There have been 9 narcotic purchases, 1 buy bust, 1 search warrant, 3 charges made in Federal Court and 1 made in State, 6,400 grams of Methamphetamine recovered, 578 grams of Marijuana recovered, and 52 grams of Heroin recovered.

Old Business:

COMBAT Audit

Jean Peters Baker gave an update on the audit for COMBAT. The State Auditor, Nicole Galloway, will do the performance audit of COMBAT. Her scope of work is still being determined. This will leave COMBAT with the fiscal audit. Vince and Jean will meet with Barb for the RFP of the financial audit of COMBAT. The RFP has not been released and it will be a 4 week process to get bids in. Chairman Jim Witteman asked if the audit will be completed by the end of the year and Jean Peters Baker stated that it would be. Commissioner Mark Bryant asked if the cost has been reduced with Nicole doing the performance audit of COMBAT. Jean Peters Baker stated that the cost has not been reduced but defrayed. The last audit cost \$100,000 so Jean believes that this financial audit should cost about the same if not less. Mark Bryant asked if the audit will have to be approved by the Legislation. Jean Peters Baker stated yes, they will make a recommendation and the Chairman will be a part of the process. Jim Witteman asked will the financial audit include everyone on the pie. Jean Peters Baker responded that all of the funds expended from COMBAT will be included. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked will there be a committee for this process and Jean stated that there could be one. Keith Querry asked if the financial audit of COMBAT required. Jean Peters Baker replied that it's best practiced to do a financial audit annually. It's required to do a performance audit of the COMBAT funded agencies, but not for COMBAT overall. The financial audit will involve the funds that COMBAT is bringing and how it's being distributed. Mark Bryant asked if both audits will be paid by COMBAT. Jean Peters Baker replied that both audits will come from COMBAT funds, the performance and financial audit. Vince stated that annual audits have been conduct on COMBAT funded agency's programs in the past by the Resource Development Institute (RDI), a local business in Kansas City. Jim Witteman asked Jean if her intent was to do this audit annually and have a multi-year contract. Jean stated that she did want to do it annually and that she will ask about a multi-year contract. Jay Haden explained that the county had recently signed a 5 year contract but they are only bind by one year.

Raytown Violence Reduction Initiative

Vince reported on the Raytown Violence Reduction initiative. A meeting was conducted with the Mayor, police chief, Carolyn Whitney and other ladies with Sisters in Christ, a COMBAT agency in Raytown. They were very receptive of COMBAT coming there. Raytown Crime Analyst reported that 15-24 year olds were causing the crime out in the area and that some of the major issues in Raytown were lack of jobs, lack of parenting skills, lack of transportation, and mental health issues. However, they have many programs in the area and very robust programs within the Raytown School district. He stated that although they have many programs in the area, there's not a comprehensive collaborative effort in coordinating the services. Vince would like to have the next meeting identify the gaps in service in the area. Carolyn Whitney with Sisters in Christ could be the community hub, point of contact/Community Recourse Coordinator since she is very passionate about helping in the area and has established

relationships in the hot spot area. Jim Wittman stated that the Herndon Career Center is spectacular and that there's a lot of focus on not just education but on trades as well. Jean Peters Baker stated that she wants to have a meeting with Carolyn Whitney and the Raytown School District to work on a collaborative program for 15-24 year olds. Jackson County Legislator, Teresa Galvin, stated that it was a productive meeting and that the ladies from Sisters in Christ were all very passionate. There was a brief discussion about the budget cuts and decrease in officers in Raytown.

Healing House

Jim Witteman reported on Healing House's Open House. He stated that it was a beautiful facility with amazing people. He had a nice talk with Bobbi Jo. He would like the Drug Commission to go down there and visit.

New Business:

Journey to New Life/Ellis Care

Vince reported that the director of Journey to New Life is unable to commit to their program and advised that Carrie Ellis would like to take over the program under her 501c3. She was involved in writing the proposal for Journey to New Life and was named as the program Director in the proposal. It's a mentor program to help their clients navigate through the system. Their clients are individuals who were incarcerated. Most of the mentors have 15-20 year experience with recovery and 20 years of training. The program is to help their clients realize that their community is bigger than the 4 walls they are in. Commissioner Larry Beaty asked if the program was co-ed. Carri stated that it was. The administrative building is located on 31st and Troost and they have their clients spread throughout Jackson County. The main building is located across the street from Operation Breakthrough. The program is for clients that want to be in the program. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked if it was a residential program. It is a residential program that gives them 90 days to transition out into the community.

Gene Morgan motioned to transfer the \$75,000 allocated from Journey to New Life to Ellis Care, Melesa Johnson seconded, motion passed.

Announcements:

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, July 10th, 2018, at 1:30pm at the Downtown Court House.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.