



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Sara Hensley, CPRP, Interim Assistant City Manager

DATE: March 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Homelessness Coordination Update #4

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a monthly update on the City's Homelessness Coordination efforts. Please find a summary of our progress.

Created City Homelessness Coordination Steering Team In February 2018, we established a City Homelessness Coordination Steering Team comprised of department leaders from Austin Public Health (APH), Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS), the Austin Police Department, Neighborhood and Community Development (NHCD), the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), and the Bloomberg i-Team. The first deliverable for this steering group is to identify and prioritize the top ten highest impact actions that the City can take over the next five years to help people experiencing homelessness to become healthier, more self-reliant, and stable in a housing situation that meets their unique needs.

One of the most important recommendations that will be forthcoming is the creation of a Community Steering Trust Board, which would include key funding organization executives who would work "holistically" to review and share their respective agencies' funding of services such as homelessness, workforce development and social services contracts. The overall goal is to identify:

- *what services are being funded;*
- *performance measures;*
- *allocated amount of funding; and*
- *length of time funded.*

We want to be collaborative regarding our funding priorities. Once the information is collected, the Trust Board can work together to collectively select services and programs that meet the overall desired state, with the biggest agreed upon impact. This will hopefully lead us in the direction toward a better City/County-wide common effort, and assist us all in a more focused and agreed upon menu of services.

Launched City Pop-Up Clinic Strike Team During its first convening, the Homelessness Coordination Steering Team identified the opportunity to proactively and strategically plan the City's Pop-Up Clinics led by ATCEMS, thereby launching a *tactical Pop-Up Clinic Strike Team* that will focus on how to continuously improve the City's efforts to provide mobile continuum-of-care services to people experiencing homelessness. Using the newly created *City of Austin Homelessness Map* created by NHCD staff in collaboration with several City departments, the *Pop-Up Clinic Strike Team* is working together to develop the 2018 Pop-Clinic calendar.

Continued Collaboration with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Mobility IH-35 Homelessness Initiative The Austin Police Department, Integral Care, ECHO, and several other homelessness stakeholders, as well as the City Homelessness Coordination Steering Team members, participated in the TxDOT's mobility initiative to address homelessness along IH 35. Because of this meeting, we've connected the designers of our *COA Homelessness Map* with the appropriate TxDOT staff to explore how we can share information and resources.

Updates on Council Homelessness-Related Resolutions

We have closed six of eleven Council homelessness-related resolutions. Brief updates on several open resolutions are listed below:

Closed Council Homelessness-Related Resolutions

- 20160623-079: 24-hour public toilets downtown
- 20170209-033: Overall economic assessment of the eastern area of downtown and the impact of new investments on various landmarks and projects
- 20170622-035: Business Plan for Veterans Resource Center
- 20170810-033: Identify potential properties for a temporary, short-term shelter to serve individuals experiencing homelessness
- 20170831-103: Creating dedicated funding for homelessness
- 20141002-043: The City Manager is directed to set a community target of 400 PSH units, with a minimum of 200 dedicated to "Housing First", to be funded by end of 2018
- 20170413-026: Ongoing efforts to address the urgent public health situation caused by K2/Spice and identify additional resources necessary to bolster public safety

Open Council Homelessness-Related Resolutions

- 20171012-015: Contract for services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) (#1966) - APH convened four open community forums for ARCH services feedback: December 16, January 9, and January 19 (two meetings). One "downtown pilot" stakeholder forum was held on December 15. A forum was held with Front Steps staff and board members on February 6. A fifth open community forum was held on February 5 at City Hall. This was the last public forum. However, staff will continue to take feedback at ARCHideas@austintexas.gov.

The Innovation Office's i-Team has been collecting stakeholder feedback from the Homelessness Advisory Committee of Austin (advisors with current or former lived experience of homelessness) regarding ARCH services and input for a downtown homeless shelter/resource center. This information has been provided to APH for input into the ARCH Request for Proposal.

APH is consulting with Law and Purchasing Departments to set up a consulting contract with the National Alliance to End Homelessness, as directed in the Resolution, to contribute recommendations for the solicitation.

- 20170831-054: Residents in Search of Empowerment, (RISE ATX) pilot program (#1932)

APH convened four meetings with the Temp Work Taskforce: December 6, December 13, December 14 and January 17. The following departments have attended one or more of the meetings: Austin Public Health (including Day Labor staff), PARD, APD, ACD, EDD, Innovation Office, HRD, Watershed Protection, and DACC. They met on several occasions to discuss options for panhandling. Alan Graham, from Mobile Loaves and Fishes, met with the City task force and presented his idea for mobile vending work opportunities downtown.

APH and Innovation iTeam staff had a conference call with staff at 3-1-1. Topics covered included homeless data tracking capabilities and the potential for routing incoming calls to a department for work referrals (similar to the Albuquerque model referenced in RISE ATX Resolution).

We have also been meeting with workforce development partners such as Easter Seals, Workforce Solutions and Goodwill.

Final recommendation memo is forthcoming.

- 20170831-059: Alternative activities to panhandling (#1936) – Recommendations forthcoming via memo, which will include additional information regarding the research, as well as estimated costs
 - Mayor Adler's office has been working with Monica Williams, Giving City Services, to develop a website called www.allofus.com. The purpose of this initiative is to engage community around volunteering and donating opportunities to support the work of ending homelessness. Currently, the working assumptions for the site include but are not limited to:
 - Engaging of community efforts
 - Operating in conjunction with ECHO, City and County
 - Leveraging of existing audience channels
 - Creating metrics to measure reach and impact
 - Reporting out to the community on metrics
 - Staff is looking into cities that have a text-to-donate option instead of giving directly to panhandlers. A final recommendation will be out April 2018.
- 20170126.043: Develop a pay for success type of contract proposal for permanent supportive housing for the homeless population (The Law Department provided an update memo and has been asked by Council to further research information.)

Thank you for your continued support and do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Assistant City Managers

