

## **Missoula City Council Public Safety and Health Committee Minutes**

**July 24, 2019**

**9:10 AM**

**City Council Chambers**

**140 W. Pine Street, Missoula , MT**

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson, Julie Armstrong, Michelle Cares, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West  
**Members absent:** Mirtha Becerra, John DiBari, Jesse Ramos

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

##### **1.2.1 Minutes from July 17, 2019**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Relationship Violence Services (RVS) Quarterly Update**

Brenna Merrill, the coordinator for the Make Your Move Council is speaking on Relationship Violence Services.

She is working on bar training. In 2016 they revamped the bar workshop. They worked with a bar in Hamilton to give bar training. They retrained the VFW earlier this week. They were one of the first bars trained on the new curriculum. Since the last update a group in Kentucky reached out and is looking to model the bar curriculum. Looking forward, two additional local bars are looking to get trained in the bar curriculum. In November Heidi West connected them with a local musician and working with bystander intervention training. They are going to be working on a similar curricula as bar training but with musicians. They hope the curriculum will be ready in the fall.

Last year they did a workplace harassment prevention training. They created a new curriculum that focuses on positive messages about being great in your career and not harassing people. She and Kelly did the training for a 60 person crew. Kelly and Leah did another training for a twenty person crew in the Bitterroot. There was positive feedback.

They are in the midst of a needs assessment process. They received funding to hire a contractor. The funding came through a federal grant called the Rape Prevention Education Fund. This will fund the needs assessment to look at the ways prevention is happening in Missoula. We also recognize that other types of prevention lead into

preventing sexual violence. This will help create a road map that guides agencies in Missoula on the process moving forward. This will be ready by the end of winter.

Prevent Connect is spotlighting one of their Make Consent Explicit Campaigns. She and Kelly were selected to present their great sex campaign at the National Sexual Assault Conference this August. They were selected by the CDC to have their bar work highlighted. This was filmed in January and became public a month ago. Brenna presented the video to Committee.

Heidi West stated she was excited about the training for musicians.

Heather Harp asked if they are looking at conversations looking at other harassments and social ills to have a greater content. Brenna said the community mapping program is designed to do that. They are looking to be able to draw a connection to make the network more tangible.

Kelly McGuire spoke. They just got a grant through VOCA (Victim of Crime Act) to hire a staff person, Erica Johnson. She is full-time and will be doing work in schools in Missoula County. Erica will be working on title 9 items. It is a federal law around gender discrimination.

The other grant they put in for is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Program and they are a finalist. They got over 800 applications. They should get final approval in the next couple weeks. That will fund ¼ of Kelly's time. The grant will allow them to tie in with the community on other projects. It is a three year program. They now have four people on their team.

They started a racial justice initiative. They have had two trainings. She knows people of color experience violence at a different rate and she want to make sure they are providing the best services to people no matter what their background is.

Michelle Cares asked about the other position that was being hired relating to health equity. Kelly said the position is called Health Equity Coordinator.

Shantelle Gaynor spoke about Jenny Daniels' work and the Crime Victim Advocate Program. She stated prevention has seen an increase in funds, on the direct services side there have been cuts and will talk about that later.

The Family Violence Intervention and Education Session (FVIES) is court ordered education session that is required for first and second time PFMA offenders. Other people can be ordered to go to this class. It is meant as a way of opening a conversation for folks who are early on in using violence and introduce them to the idea of change and how change may be possible.

FVIES talks about how folks experienced mistreatment when they were growing up. There are eleven items that are related to adverse child experiences. The higher the number of adverse child experiences you have the more issues you will have to include physical and behavioral problems. It is a good tool to help people understand how these experiences affect them. 62% of folks they have been working with have experienced emotional abuse as children, 61% were physically abused and 42% saw their mother or stepmother abused. 98% of the people who went through the program said they learned something about family violence. The next steps are going to be diving into court records over time and tracking who we see coming back. 25% of participants are women, 75%

are men and a portion who are non-binary. These sessions are held quarterly and folks pay \$20.00 to attend. Several neighboring communities have asked to visit us and watch what we do and duplicate our program.

Just Response is continuing to have meetings with all members of the criminal justice level at the case level, at the community level, and continuing to meet those needs. There is an advisory board for all the decision makers to come together and to ensure the conversations are happening on the ground and up the chain as well. . There will be ongoing training. They are coordinating with PD to bring in a trainer named Russell Strand. He is a well-respected trainer who implemented a kind of interview for victims who have experienced trauma understanding how trauma works in the brain and body. Using this new model helps to understand what clear signs of trauma are.

Heather Harp asked about the \$20.00 class fee. She wants to know how many times people are court ordered and how many times they need to attend the class. Shantelle said it is just one time.

Michelle Cares asked about the data regarding recidivism in FVIES and the vastness of it is intimidating when trying to evaluate and effect change. She was thinking about the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and if this information would be relevant to them. Is this on their radar? Shantelle said they are going to meet tomorrow and will discuss it with them.

Michelle asked if there was a role for Crime Victims Advocate for them to partner with Partners of Reintegration which is a community group trying to address issues of reentering society. There is a leadership team and a larger team. Once they had a meeting with the Director of Department of Corrections and met with Partners of Reintegration and it was a great connection to have.

Michelle asked about the trauma trainer and the acknowledgement by jurors. Ultimately this information that would be great to get disseminated. If we had a community that is trained and understanding this it would be beneficial for jurors. We don't currently have an agenda to take this item to the streets.

Shantelle talked about year-end data. In FY 2019 they have 1782 new cases. Of those, 1200 required follow-up. 65% are cases originated in the city and 22% are in county and the rest are out of county/out of state. This year 62% were civil cases. They are walk-ins and call-ins requesting assistance. They are seeing an average of 143 new cases a month. In terms of orders of protection, 42% came from municipal court, 25% from district court. 21% were from justice courts 1 and 2; 12% were referred from out of state or county. Roughly 1/3 of the cases are domestic violence cases. Just under 40% involve stalking, harassment, intimidation or violation of orders. They continue to get great client feedback.

They are continuing to work on upgrading their computer system. The state had a long term system called AVID. The last year they tried to build the system and couldn't. They gave up on trying to find a new vendor. They are purchasing a new system. It is good news for them, but the bad news for the state is they are no longer using the same system, so comparing data will become very tricky and she is not sure about the impact at the state level.

The Victims of Crimes Act is funded at the federal level by revenue from federal prosecutions. The revenue is down quite a bit and one of the ways they are trying to pay for violence against women act is to take money from the VOCA pot. There are limited grants they can apply for at this time because they do not meet the requirements. By having the money move to this competitive funding it puts more strain on having the money you can count on. The Department of Corrections set a formula on how much funding was going to be cut from programs. They will not see an increase in VOCA funding.

Michelle asked about Marcy's law funding. Shantelle said that anyone who is an existing grantee is treated the same. In this funding cycle they said no new applications, but if you had received funding for one year you were the same as if you got the grant for 20 years.

Heather Harp asked about prosecutions at the federal level and if domestic violence was decreasing on the federal level. Shantelle said federal crimes are not just domestic violence crimes.

Heather asked about data sharing. To hear that we no longer have a statewide database is disheartening. Even if we don't have it coming down from the state level, are we working with other communities to be on the same system? Shantelle said they looked at 30 different systems. A lot of the smaller communities are priced out of some of them. Even with the money from the state that came as an initial investment, there are yearly maintenance fees on some of the programs that the smaller communities cannot afford to pay for.

Michelle was wondering about that and if the Board of Crime Control meeting was going to have a meeting about coordinating. Shantelle said she was going to attend the meeting in August and she would bring it up, but she does not think they have come up with a solution.

Bryan asked if Shantelle could share the data in an email. He asked what agency/department is unable to coordinate the vendor selection process. Shantelle stated it is the Board of Crime Control which is the Board of Corrections. corrections.

Bryan asked if anyone have any ideas about any area where there is a policy need or if there is an educational or training need. They are hoping to get council members to any type of training they feel is beneficial.

N/A

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned.