

Missoula City Council Public Safety and Health Committee Minutes

August 26, 2020

12:25 PM

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Members present: Stacie Anderson (chair), John P. Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

All committee members present.

1.2 Approval of the Minutes for July 15, 2020

Minutes approved without comment.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair, Stacie Anderson, reviewed the forms in which the public can participate and comment on the meeting. Clerks pushed the screen for public comment. She noted that this is an information-only presentation from Kristen about Mobile Crisis Unit regarding the grant application. Kristen hasn't had a chance to come talk to us about what all that entails and this seems like a good time with all of the chatter from the public regarding this particular item. Stacie noted the order of operations for the meeting - it is scheduled until 1:05 so Kristen can have time to explain this, then we will take questions and comments from the committee, then we will take questions and comments from the public on this.

With that said, we will take public comment on non-agenda items that are the pervue of the PSH committee. The floor was opened to the first commentator.

Matts Larson introduced himself, noting his desire to to draw awareness regarding the Missoula Police Department, as he has done for several weeks now and some of the troubling lack of oversight and following their own protocols and policies. There are at least 4 events involved in friends group and many more outside of that. Covering up their badges. Not throwing out incident and use of force reports. Racial Profiling. Coordinating with US Marshals. These are all just within his personal friend group. He has yet to see any true significant action against anyone and hold accountability to anyone. How the City Attorney's Office is blocking discovery from people of color in this community. The Native people in this community, Matt reports, have dramatically increased the population of the Missoula County Detention Center - they hold a 24% population of that center. Matt has met with the Mayor to express his interest in following up on those policies and getting more info from all departments he let him know that 8% of Missoula's population is Native American. So he is again highlighting the racial disparity within the

community. Please explore more with your grant what is going on with your grant. Matt has also been banished from dealing with Nugent, who Matt express, "has a personal vendetta against him". He has used e-mail as an intimidation tactic by attaching police to any correspondence between them. Matt expresses frustration with those e-mail chains. This may result in formal complaints against the city departments as well as various entities within it. There are at least 2 formal complaints so far and it is looking like it is going to be 3.

Ms. Anderson is interrupts Mr. Larson, indicating that he has exceeded his 3 minutes of time.

Leanna McDonald is invited to make public comment, and she also has someone else here to make a comment. She will introduce her friend in a few minutes.

Leanne McDonnel for public comment - you have 3 minutes. There is someone else here that would like to make a comment as well. Leanne is a long term tenant in good standing with Tamarack Property Management at the Fireweed Court apartments and she is also a former nurse. She is here to address topics of safety and health hazards historically and currently occurring on Homeward and Tamarack property management properties.

She invited a fellow resident, Lindsey Austheimer, to speak on her own behalf and of others on their property who are not able to be here themselves due to work situations. She addressed a number of ethical issues at Fireweed Court property that have do not meet the mission statement of safety, health and sustainability really and it does not align treatment here through the Tamarack. Lindsey notes massive issues with being "totally brushed under the rug". Specifically, and especially the health of our elders and very vulnerable who have asked for some special accommodations during this pandemic about people entering their home. She relayed experiences of lack of responsibility on the part of management to maintain and repair facilities as necessary. She noted attempts to address issues with the company resulted in aggression and threats of eviction. She again noted the failure to uphold to their company values and mission statement of Homeward, stating "it's become an issue where they dangle people's housing to play a game of chicken". Opinions are voiced and there is "outrageous" treatment to people whose house is probably the only sense of security that they have. "We say this needs to change."

Leanne returned to speak in regards to her experience and offer solutions. She has noted multiple occasions of correspondence with Tamarack to try and resolve concerns and issues, particularly concerning COVID-19. Requests included ways to cease or limit inspections to reduce access to individual apartments during the pandemic

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on the Mobile Crisis Unit

45 minutes

KristenJordan-kjordan@missoulacounty.us

Stacie Anderson introduces Kristen Jordan, the Missoula County Criminal Justice Services Division Manager/Project Director.

Jesse Ramos indicates that he is present.

Ms. Anderson notes that there was longer public comment than anticipated and asked Kristen, if she was going to have enough time.

Kristen notes that she can make the time work as needed, but expects it to be tight. Kristen shared her screen with the committee. Kristen is in charge of the implementation of the Mobile Crisis Unit/Team (MCU/MCT) and she has been wanting to come and talk to the committee about the work. A dual resolution was signed back in 2018 by the mayor and the commissioners provided for the implementation of a criminal justice coordinating council, which her organization facilitates. Funding was also approved for a vision manager.

The Mission: Criminal Justice Support Division (CJSD) will provide support for criminal/legal justice stakeholders through research, data analysis, administrative support, and program oversight.

Vision: The CJSD will work toward justice, equity, and community safety within the Missoula County criminal/legal justice system.

Kristen introduced her staff members:

1. Kristen's role as the Program Director
2. Data Analyst is funded through a grant received through the MacArthur Foundation.
3. Public Safety Assessment Coordinator is funded by a grant received by the state.
4. Plus a practicum student working on restorative justice

The CJSD received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation for \$700K to focus on safely reducing jail populations and address ethnic and racial disparities within the legal system. At the time of the grant funding, i.e. what services are available for folks in a mental health crisis. They seek to examine what services are available at that particular intercept locally. The foundation completed a sequential intercept mapping exercise that looked at gaps and treatments available for mental health services along the legal intercept continuum, for example. Kristen discussed some of the processes and services that they seek to offer. There are six different intercepts, for example, one is hospital crisis, respite and peer support community services. Kristen refers to the Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) that was included in the paperwork she provided. She notes that pages 25-41 include recommendations that came out of that process and detail what they went through. They also do regular ad hoc and ad hoc research. This includes weekly and monthly jail reports. A jail population dashboard was just published in the last few months, which can be viewed on their website. They also did a jail population report on who is in the jail pre- and during COVID, Kristen provided another handout with this information called the JMI Data Summary. Their data analyst is scheduled to be doing a presentation for council in a couple weeks on that data as well to dive deeper into what's happening in the local jail during COVID. Also there are expert working groups: the Jail Review Team, the PSA Pre-trial Team, a Partners for Reintegration/Re-entry Team. They also have a juvenile team being formed, racial and justice disparities team just being formed, and a data analysis team being formed.

There was a brief interlude to address the view on the screen.

Kristen discussed the CJCC's purpose was to address the recommendations of the MacArthur findings and strategies. Its specific mission is "to use a data-driven approach to study Missoula County's adult and juvenile criminal justice system; identify challenges; raise public awareness; consolidate efforts; and formulate policy, plans and programs to

improve the system. The CJCC is committed to the coordinated planning of innovative corrections programs that reflect the County's desire for safety and cost effectiveness, which includes assessing successes and shortcomings."

The RCJCC is a policy advisory board that was based off of a concept from the National Institute of Corrections. It's made up of 28 voting members and their alternates - primarily elected and agency executives. Julie Merritt is the City Council representative and Heather Harp is her alternate. Implementation of a local crisis team was determined to be a need at those meetings. All of their meetings are public. Details will be sent on the city or county websites and social media.

Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) was founded in the spring of 2019. Kristen asked attendees to visit their website and handouts given for additional details, but the general idea is founded in establishing safety and justice strategies. They are nearing the end of that grant cycle and asked to reapply for the next cycle. That JMI report can be found in the handouts as well identifies issues and violations. It also discusses how to address unusually large amounts of people in jail on these types of matters.

Kristen moved on to discuss the Mobile Crisis solution. There are various models, but generally a MCT responds to incidents separately from law enforcement or first responders and they're usually called in "out of the blue." There is a corresponding model which includes someone from mental health riding along on the response unit and assisting as necessary. The Missoula model will also include follow-up care, death notifications, transportation of clients, welfare checks, and outreach. For example, a client may enter a mental health crisis and they can send the team to respond to that patient. They also do outreach. In one example from Eugene, OR, the MCT moved the homeless population to the fairgrounds during Coronavirus to see that they can aid folks there as needed.

Eugene, OR has a model that the Missoula team would like to aim for which aims to ensure that people have a continuum of care. Their mental Health crisis program is called CAHOOTS, which stands for Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets. This is an intervention program that has been responding in Eugene since 1989. It initially funded for \$790K which sponsored 31 hours of service per day which included some overlapping coverage seven days a week. They responded to 20% of the calls in Eugene and Springfield, OR. Since that time, their funding has increased about a quarter of a million dollars since then and they run calls 24/7. The cost is about a million dollars for 24/7 care and multiple MCTs.

So, why have a MCT? The first goal is to ensure support relative to needs and in their own location and they don't have to go anywhere. It also reduces emergency room admissions and jail bookings. Mental Health providers may be able to handle situations before they escalate. Kristen discusses that while LE is not placing people in jail due to mental health issues, jail booking can happen because the situation does escalate and they are booked because of something that is a consequence of their mental state. Folks ending up in jail because of a mental health status is a misconception. What mobile crisis aims to do is send the MCU in lieu of LE in that situation.

Kristen states that models commonly show cost savings is typically seen at around \$3-\$7 per every dollar spent, which of course varies by jurisdiction, but she expects to see savings on a local level. Savings come from reduce emergency room visits and jail

admissions. She notes that every resident in Missoula's local jail costs \$115 per inmate per night. The MCT also reduces the need for a full fire truck response. First responders and LE can focus on the primary purpose of their jobs. The City can also use MCT at the Poverello, who generally doesn't want to press charges, which means LE is often in a bind as to what their capabilities are when they do respond, which can lead to repeat visits.

Kristen reviewed the details of this grant. This will be a 10 month pilot program starting Sept. 1st. They have matching grants to the tune of \$130K. The data collected from this project will be used to request funds for a hard ask next spring; a well educated ask that is modeled off the CAHOOTS program and based on our own findings for needs. That model includes either 2 mental health providers (MHP) and a case manager or 1 MHP, 1 EMT, and one case manager. Applicants are required to present 80 hours service per week from 2 teams of 3. These people will be expected to work nights and weekends. They have to be capturing the data needed to find and fill gaps and meeting the needs of the community.

As of last week, there are 3 submissions and CJCC team will meet on Thursday of this week to review applications and select a provider.

This program has been identified as a top priority for the CJCC and combined effort of the City, County, Poverello, first responders, LE, and other various members have all been very supportive of this initiative.

Stacie Anderson thanked Kristen for her presentation and for getting it all in in good time. She opened the floor for questions from council members, but wanted to start with the first question. When looking at and adding up all of those monies that have been funded, all in the first initial pot of money is \$380K, just a portion around \$75K is committed from the City and \$50K from the County. Stacie noted that those funds are from multiple sources and that has an advantage point, but she wondered if Kristen believed that would be sufficient to get the program off the ground to get it running? Yes, Kristen believed there is a process to gather data and examine how long the team needs to be staffed and The will adjust their vision and needs as The progress and move forward. She knows that some comments from the community requests a 24/7 team, but right now, we don't feel there is a need for that. We may adjust and find different statistics moving forward from there, and we will if we feel that is necessary, but for now, we don't feel a need that.

Jesse Ramos - not sure why hand up. Sorry.

Amber Sherrill thanked Kristen for her presentation. She noted that she was really excited about this program and having this pilot program in Missoula. The number of calls and the the 20% calls and decrease in call volume in the CAHOOTS model in Eugene is really impressive. Can you discuss other cities where this has been done? What is the population in Eugene in compared to Missoula? What can we anticipate in hours and needs - comparative math there. It's really interesting how many variations of MCT there are across the country. Even though we are using CAHOOTS as as model, we will really specify it to what we need in Missoula. Eugene is quite a bit bigger than Missoula - possibly a quarter million, maybe more. We expect to see a reduction and expect to be able to divert calls to mobile crisis unit(s). We will examine data and if we are going to be able to need to stand up the MCT more than anticipated, The are going to have the data to support that need. It's hard to prioritize needs, but The will collect the data on the

amount of calls. There is not 1 model that The are taking specifically, every on is tailored and a little different.

Amber noted that this is an investment in the community and she appreciates Kristen's work on having the statistics and costs associated with getting this going and being as efficient as possible and she thanked Kristen for bringing that information to light and for being at the helm of the program.

Heather Harp discussed various aspects of mental health: one of things The know about mental health, is that it comes in different forms - one is a form of brain chemistry and a behavior and situation response based on trauma and life experiences. I would highly encourage you to conduct those ACEs, which is an acronym of Adverse Childhood Experiences, surveys to collect the data The need about who ends up in the system and why. Kristen notes that this wasn't included in the original platform, but thinks that this is a great idea and thinks ACEs could be critical across LE response across the board. It is a great way to assess what challenges someone might be going through.

Julie Merritt wanted to highlight some of the financial figure shown: i.e. for every one dollar spent on MCT there is a \$3-\$7 cost savings. That is huge. Julie also appreciates the annotation of cost to keep someone in jail overnight is \$115 per night. She notes that is one of the many reasons to want to prevent people who don't need to be in jail who don't need to end up there. She also wanted to bring to light and ask Kristen about one recent statistic that Missoula, over the past year, has committed more people to the state mental hospital than any other city in the state. Kristen notes that this is out of her wheelhouse a little bit, but she does not that Missoula beats the other jurisdictions by a factor of 3, but she cannot speak to that without a lot of knowledge.

Bryan von Lossberg thanks Kristen for this presentation as well. He asked how to navigate the pilot program with the MCT pilot program that was maybe not addressed - how are they going to address the lack of a crisis stabilization site? Kristen notes that this is a gap in the program and a part of the problem. For folks who need to go to a crisis residential center, that is where we are going to fall short. We really need a Dakota Center times 50, where if someone is in crisis and we don't want to take him or her to jail, they just need to go somewhere for observation. So we're going to be collecting data related to that as well and hopefully find out how many times we weren't able to take someone to Dakota House because it was full or another reason. Bryan followed-up that Dakota House is a dry facility and doesn't allow inebriated/intoxicated. Kristen is unsure of the exact limitations. She is happy to find out more.

Stacie thanks everyone for being here and to Kristen again for the presentation. Stacie notes that Kristen's team is meeting to appoint whomever the person is that is awarded the grant moving forward this Thursday. She would like to see Kristen and that person come back when they have that in the next few months. There is one person waiting for public comment, that is Matts Larson again. Stacie asked Matt to kindly keep his comments brief.

Matts Larson notes that he loves the idea of the MCU and asked how they plan to interact in conjunction with the police and if LE is going to self-attach to calls "as they do to any calls to the police department". He asked if they would be observers in welfare checks or how it's determined who would take various calls for service. Matts also

expanded on concerns about finances spent on street cleaning and other areas and seek to reallocate portions of the budget more to sponsor programs like this.

Stacie did step in to redirect comment to PSH committee material.

Kristen thanked Matts for a good question about how the MCT/MCU will work with law enforcement and Missoula Police Department. She stated that 911 is going to making the call on who to dispatch to a given incident. She notes that there are going to be instances where LE backup is going to be necessary in instances where civilians pose a risk to themselves or others, and the MCT is not equipped or trained to handle that type of situation. The MCT will still maintain the role as primary negotiator in that situation. There may be times where safety issues arise and they will be able to request police backup. But the idea is to separate the police from calls in any area where it is safe and feasible to do so as that is what research shows is best practice.

Stacie notes this is not the last time we will be discussing this new response team and apologies to all parties for running late.

NA

4. ADJOURNMENT

Stacie Anderson adorned committee meeting.