

Drug Commission Meeting
September 26, 2017, 1:30-3:30pm
Arts Tech, 1522 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64108
Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Lanna Ultican
Gene Morgan
Keith Querry
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Melesa Johnson

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jaime Masters, Chief of Health Services
Michael Mansur, Prosecutor's Office
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Capt. Daniel Graves, Kansas City Police Dept.
Theresa Galvin, County Legislator
Brittany Brown, Legislative Aide
David Sullivan, Arts Tech
Diane Charity, Manheim Neighborhood Assoc.
Hana Thomas, MENA
Patrick Kaiser, MENA
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office
Joan Dickey, COMBAT
Tammie Jordan, COMBAT
Carol Lillis, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

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

Jaime Masters, Chief of Health Services, reported that the COMBAT Director appointment submitted to the Legislature was disapproved.

Lanna Ultican motioned to approve the August minutes, Melesa Johnson second, motion passed.

Reports from Ex. Officio

Mike Mansur from the Prosecutor's office had nothing to report.

Capt. Daniel Graves from KCPD had nothing to report.

Dan Cummings from the Drug Task Force reported that the Drug Task Force indicted 24 people on 52 federal charges. They recovered 85 lbs. of methamphetamine.

Mildred Edward's Strategic Planning Session

Jaime Masters presented Mildred Edward's report of the strategic planning session. Chairman Jim Witteman asked the Drug Commissioners if they wanted to break down into committees to tackle the goals from the strategic plan. Melesa Johnson, Mark Bryant, and Jim Witteman were assigned to help with the language on Section 2: Ensure existing policies, procedures and practices are in alignment with organizational goals. Keith Query will help with Section 3: Structure transparency and accountability in financial practices to accomplish set organization strategy. Dr. Joseph Spalitto will help with Section 4: Conduct a baseline review of the needs for substance abuse and violence related crimes in Jackson County. Gene Morgan will help with Section 5: Gain an increased understanding of the incidence and prevalence of substance use/abuse, its impact and available Jackson County resources in the COMBAT database. Gene Morgan stated that the word "addition" in line 2 of the purpose statement should be changed to addiction.

Gene Morgan motioned to approve the COMBAT strategic planning outcomes for August 8, 2017 (Values, Vision, Mission, and Purpose), Dr. Joseph Spalitto seconded, motion passed.

Jaime Masters reported that staff was removed from Section 3: Structure transparency and accountability in financial practices to accomplish set organization strategy, since no one from the pie chart should be in the discussion.

Dave Sullivan, Executive Director of Arts Tech

Dave Sullivan, Executive Director of Arts Tech, presented an overview of the agency. Arts Tech is a youth and community development agency. They use art and technology to develop programs for youth. Arts Tech also works with Family Court, dropouts, and suspended youth. They have Project Respeto for Northeast Middle School and Northeast High School. Arts Tech hires Hispanic artists to work with the kids and they get 40-50 kids each week. Their programs are after school. During class, they discuss anti-violence themes, art and life skills. A hotel offered the students free space to show their art at the Plaza Art Fair. They receive funding from COMBAT through Prevention.

Old Business:

Deputy Director Vince Ortega reported that the COMBAT picnic held in Raytown on September 23 at Sarah Colman Livengood Park was outstanding. There was a live band, petting zoo, pony rides, balloons, temporary tattoos, and bubbles. The picnic had a very good turnout. The Raytown Mayor, police chief and several officers, and other law enforcement officers attended as well as many Combat-funded agencies attended.

Vince Ortega also announced that one of the kids from Hope Hangout, who came with Marva Moses at the last Drug Commission meeting, passed away as a result of an asthma attack.

New Business:

Hana Thomas and Patrick Kaiser, 21st Century Block Watch

Hana Thomas and Patrick Kaiser presented on the 21st Century Block Watch violence prevention program. They want to use motion detection cameras, wireless internet, and smart phones in neighborhoods to create a virtual block watch to monitor criminal activity. Vince talked about a nuisance house within the Manheim Neighborhood Association that had been a problem for 17 years and how video cameras showed evidence of someone shooting at the house. With that evidence, the Prosecutor's office was able to work with the homeowner to ensure there would be no more incidents. There have been no incidents since May 31.

Vince reiterated that COMBAT can't fund cameras but it can fund training and installation. The cameras feature technology that can be accessed from smart phones. Also, they want to put the training online then once a person completes the training, they will receive a certificate. The neighborhoods will pay for the cameras. 21st Century Block Watch already has commitments from the Police Chief. The cameras are housed on a server and backed up with a cloud source for six months to a year and can be used as evidence. 21st Century Block Watch will work with the police on showing the evidence. They are working with Hope Hangout and 8 other Neighborhoods including Ruskin Heights, Manheim, Marlboro East, and Marlboro Coalition. Tammie Jordan asked who will control the cameras. Hana stated that the neighborhood leaders will be able to control the cameras. These cameras are about keeping businesses, schools, and parks safe by catching criminal activity. The cameras will be fixed in public spaces. Hana and Patrick plan to submit a proposal to COMBAT for funding the camera training and installation. Hana also stated that the neighborhood must already have an active organized block watch.

Jaime Masters asked if they are not-for-profit and they are. Chairman Jim Witteman asked if this will be a pilot program to see if it works. It is a pilot program and it will be a community policing initiative.

Prevention and Treatment RFP Timeline

Joan Dickey presented the Prevention and Treatment RFP timeline to the Drug Commissioners. The RFP's (Request for Proposals) are scheduled to be released on October 30th and they will be due back on November 22nd. These dates are tentative since it has to go through the purchasing department. All RFP's (Prevention, Anti-Violence, Treatment, and Grant Match) will be done together and on a calendar year. This year we would like to have the reviewers come in for one or two days to do scoring. Reviewers could possibly score 5-6 applications and COMBAT would like to have 3 reviewers for each RFP. Joan asked the Drug Commissioners how involved did they want to be for the review process. Melesa Johnson expressed that she would like to be involved with review process from the beginning. Gene expressed concern that it may be getting close to performing staff functions. A subcommittee with Gene Morgan, Melesa Johnson, and Keith Querry will clarify what they think will work. They want to look at the proposals.

Standardized Question to Discuss for Pie Funding Chart

Jaime Masters reported that they should decide what questions are asked to those on the pie funding chart. She wants the same list of questions for each agency funded. Dr. Joseph Spalitto stated that they have had 3-4 agencies come in, give them a time limit, explained what they did, how it's funded, their staff, and what they're doing in the community. The Drug Commissioners will send Jim the list of questions for those on the pie funding chart by the next Drug Commission meeting.

Announcements:

COMBAT Awards Dinner is on Tuesday, October 17th at Pennway Place at Studio Dan Meiers, 2500 West Pennway, Kansas City, MO from 6-8 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.