

COMBAT Commission Meeting
October 9, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Keith Querry
Melesa Johnson
Gene Morgan
Mark S. Bryant
Larry Beaty

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jay Hayden, County Counselor's Office
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Theresa Galvin, JACO Legislator
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Teesha Miller, PDMP
Jane Cavanaugh, Legislative Aid
Winifred Jamieson, Legislative Aid
Crissy Wooderson, Auditor
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

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

Additions to Agenda:

The Executive Director update was added to the agenda and the Raytown Center for Conflict Resolution update was removed from the agenda.

Jim Witteman would like the minutes to acknowledge that he and Larry Beaty had objections to the motion passed to reinstate funding to the Empowerment Organization for Change. Gene Morgan would like a sentence omitted from the minutes. Gene Morgan motioned to approve September minutes as amended; Keith Querry seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Helen Burke with KCPD reported that they have purchased 102 grams of Cocaine, 107 grams of Heroin, 5,098 grams of Meth, and 430 grams of Marijuana. She stated that there is more Crack Cocaine being seized in the last quarter. They have seized 17,110 grams of Crack Cocaine, 148 grams of Heroin, 40,137 grams of Meth, and 224,609 grams of Marijuana. 105 search warrants have been served with 83 arrests, 46 of them were narcotic arrests. Major Helen Burke reported that the numbers were down on seizures.

Commissioner Larry Beaty asked what the street value of Heroin was. Major Helen Burke responded that it's worth \$200 per gram.

Dan Cummings with the Drug Task Force reported that they opened 17 cases in October and they have made 14 undercover buys. They have purchased about 3,000 grams of Meth, 3,000 grams of Marijuana, and 100 grams of Heroin. 5 overdoses deaths occurred in a case where Fentanyl was being sold as Heroin in St. Joseph. The Drug Task Force received \$40,000 in additional funds from HIDTA to spend by December 31st. The Drug Task Force is working on 2 homicide cases in Independence and Blue Springs. Dan Cummings reported that the Drug Task Force will be branching out to more violent crime.

Old Business:

Executive Director Update

Jennifer Dameron reported that the Executive Director's position will close on Friday, October 12th. They posted the position through HR and Nonprofit Connect for 30 days.

Empowerment Organization For A Change

Penny Rice was expected to attend the meeting, however, she wasn't present at the meeting. Vince Ortega stated that based on his dialogue with Scott Johnston, the Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers, and the coalition's Peer Review Team subsequent site visit, that reported that EOFC met NARR standards; he recommended continuing funding Empowerment Organization For A Change. Her funding was suspended due to the fact that she didn't have a live-in house manager. On Friday, October 5th, Crissy Wooderson and Vince Ortega completed a site visit. Penny Rice admitted that she didn't have a live-in house manager since August 1st. She was in the process of getting someone else. Tiffany Doxyd is now the live-in house manager. She has a full-time job as well. She is considered a peer monitored, but not a peer specialist. She's working with Bobbi Jo Reed to get certified as a peer specialist. She has two clients in the home. Vince stated that he was unclear of how they get to counseling or where the clients go for counseling. He didn't know if the services were provided onsite or out of the house. Vince stated that the major concern was the length of time that the clients went without supervision and that Penny Rice didn't have an audit completed. According to Scott Johnson, Penny Rice now has a live-in house manager and that she's qualified and capable of being a house manager even with a full-time job.

Vince recommended reinstating funding to Empowerment Organization For A Change contingent upon having a completed audit by October 31st, an investigation of a client possibly drinking on the property, and her addressing the behavior she showed towards the staff.

Commissioner Keith Querry raised concerns because the live-in house manager has a full-time job. He asked Vince how many hours is she at the house and Vince responded that he could not answer that question with any factual information. Chairman Jim Witteman asked was she notified to appear today and Vince replied that she was given several notices for her to appear that included email, phone contacts and at the site visit, on Friday, October 5th 2018.

Commissioner Mark Bryant asked if Penny Rice was notified of Vince's recommendation and Vince stated no.

Jim Witteman addressed his concerns about the live-in house manager having a full-time job and the fact that Penny Rice didn't attend today's meeting. Larry Beaty shared his concerns about the red flags with her not attending today's meeting, her disrespect towards staff, and the fact that she pays her house manager under the table. Commissioner Melesa Johnson stated that there were a lot of red flags and questions that can't be answered since she's not present at the meeting. Commissioner Keith Query asked was Scott Johnson's response based on qualifications and not performance and Vince responded yes. Jim Witteman would like to terminate the contract. Gene Morgan asked Vince when was her deadline to have the 14 items requested completed. Vince stated today. However, her audit is due at the end of October. All of the commissioners were disappointed that Penny Rice didn't attend. Mark Bryant wants to table the issue. Melesa Johnson stated that her failure to appear and disrespect to the staff was a big red flag.

Gene Morgan motioned to suspend payment to Empowerment Organization for A Change until next month where she is required to attend the next meeting with the documents required; Keith Query seconded; motion passed.

New Business:

Renewal Applications

The 2019 COMBAT Renewal Applications are posted for AVSI, Grant Match, and Treatment.

Discussions:

There were no discussions.

Announcements:

Vince announced that the Drug Commission meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, November 20th, due to the Legislature Meeting date change because of the Holiday.

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, November 20th at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.