



SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Mayor Edwin Lee

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MOBILE WELLNESS VAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, April 24, 2017
1380 Howard Street
MHB Office, Room 515
5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by David Elliott Lewis at 5:10 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Elliott Lewis, Ph.D., Chair; Richard Slota, Benny Wong

GUESTS PRESENT: Arturo Carillo, Executive Director of the Steet Violence Prevention Team, Joe Williamson, NAMI member

1.0 REVIEW OF MOBILE WELLNESS VAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

For discussion and action

1.1 Public comment

1.2 **PROPOSED RESOLUTION:** Be it resolved that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of March 27, 2017 be approved as submitted.

No action.

2.0 REVIEW RESOLUTION

For discussion

RESOLUTION (MHB 2016-06): Be It Resolved the Mental Health Board advocates funding for five Wellness Mobile vehicles with sufficient staffing for FY 2017-2018, to provide underserved neighborhoods with 24 hour, 7 days a week safe, walk-in spaces for people in crisis or in need of walk-in behavioral health services.

Whereas, it is the vision of the Department of Public Health to promote and to protect the health and well-being of all San Franciscans, and;

Whereas, the Department has been striving for development of more comprehensive, innovative, culturally responsive services to individuals and families with behavioral health challenges, and;

Whereas, according to interviews with mental health professionals at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFGH), Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES), a significant percentage of patients who self-admit are only seeking a temporary quiet and safe space to de-escalate and just talk to someone, and;

Whereas, the current demand for psychiatric crisis services at ZSFGH PES often results in the hospital reaching capacity and thus diverting patients to other hospitals, and;

Whereas, hospitalizing someone who really just needs a few hours away from the street to calm down is expensive and takes acute psychiatric beds from others in greater need, and;

Whereas, Wellness Mobile vehicles with appropriate and adequate staffing can deliver crisis de-escalation, mental health services and substance abuse referrals to neighborhoods which would otherwise be unable to access such services, and;

Whereas, many youth are impacted by neighborhood boundaries due to threats, and cannot access services, and:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mental Health Board of San Francisco urges the Department of Public Health to allocate funds for five 24 hour, 7 days a week Wellness Mobile vehicles with appropriate and adequate staffing in FY 2017 -2018.

General discussion:

The van is proposed to be a cross between Lava Mae and the Peanuts character Lucy with her psychiatrist stand. The target would be one or two high need populations.

Arturo serves primarily the transitional age youth ages 18 – 24 in San Francisco neighborhoods and housing developments. He said that people don't have enough money so they steal phones. They are also getting pharmaceutical drugs and mixing drugs with marijuana.

There is also the population of people who are homeless and living on the street. Many folks are on various substances and police are called when they act out.

It was suggested that the van have medical options available as well as snacks. It might be involved with the community and local agencies. It would have information about location of shelters, food and recreation.

Joe shared that he has spoken with parents and shared the Wellness Van resolution with NAMI.

Proposed neighborhoods where the Van might go are the Southeast Sector, the Mission and the Western Addition.

Social services might be available such as helping kids who need a job, kids who need food or kids who may be traumatized. 18 – 35 year olds with serious mental illness are sometimes treated and released multiple times.

There were no conclusions but discussion as to whether ongoing treatment would be provided or just once in the van.

1.1 Public comment

3.0 NEXT STEPS

2.1 Discussion

More outreach to hear from more people.

2.2 Public comment

4.0 REVIEW GOALS AND ASSIGNMENTS FROM 2-27-17 MEETING

2.1 Discuss committee goals and timeline.

Richard did a ride along with Arturo and the Street Violence Prevention Team.

2.2 Public comment

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.