

# SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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Mayor Edwin Lee

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## MOBILE WELLNESS VAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, May 22, 2017  
1380 Howard Street  
MHB Office, Room 515  
5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by David Elliott Lewis at 5:06 PM.

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jasmine Lin, Jacob Savage, CONCRN, Hy Carrel, CONCRN, Ashley Thomas, City Resource, N. Passauanello, David Radohato, City Resource

### 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 because no quorum

1.3 PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of April 24, 2017 be approved as submitted.

No action because no quorum

### 2.0 CITY RESOURCE

For discussion

City Resource provides needle exchange and hygiene services. They rented a truck and provide restrooms and wash stations. They receive payment from merchants because it has significantly reduced the human waste on the streets. They also provide some clothes and some food and they would like to expand those offerings. They refer people to shelters and food sources such as Glide, St. Anthony's and Larkin Street. They have found that people may know about resources but don't always follow through with appointments. Transport is needed to get people to appointments.

People want to be seen and witnessed. Their van has been described as an Oasis in the Desert. So many people on the streets don't feel they have much to be proud of.

They have faced challenges parking their truck. The Department of Street Planning and Mapping would require them to pay \$1,000 every six months to park in a spot. Instead they have been able to build rapport with local property owners and contracted with them to park in their spots.

An attached diagram shows how City Resource and CONCRN might partner.

#### 1.1 Public comment

### **3.0 CONCRN**

CONCRN focuses on the lower Polk Street area from California to O'Farrell and Polk and Van Ness Streets. They use a phone app to dispatch. They provide Compassionate Response Training and Bias Training for their volunteers. This is CONCRN's approach to de-escalation. When de-escalation doesn't work, sometimes raising your voice and showing no fear can help. They also provide self-defense training. They develop rapport through humor and Jacob plays the trumpet which connects with people. They focus on conscious communication, and really listen to people. They look at the emotions: fear, intimidation and frustration. They will disengage from intimidation and create a safe place for fear. With frustration, they will consequence. For example, if unable to meet the need someone has, they will give some hope that some needs could be met. Sometimes they have to call the police.

They would like to have the ability to create a pop-up safe space – a calm place to meditate, with cushions, etc.

They will call City Resource to have help connecting to services.

It was suggested that both organizations might present to the entire board. The board might advocate for increased funding so that a larger van with a detachable truck could be purchased. A resolution could be developed to highlight the work of the two organizations.

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

No discussion

#### 2.1 Discussion

No discussion of this item.

#### 2.2 Public comment

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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