



**Together in Partnership
Review Subcommittee
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Brevard
County Government Center, Florida Room,
Building C, Viera, FL 32940
August 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Report

Members Present: Lisa Bradley, Jean Bandish, Patricia Seibert, Maria Bledsoe, Talia Bryant, Rebecca Thibert, Richard Acevedo

Guests Present: Johnette Gindling, Andrea Fant

Staff Present: Melissa Brandt

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. Introductions were made by everyone present.

Election of Chairperson: Rebecca Thibert made a motion that she would be the chair, a second was made by Maria Bledsoe. Motion carried unanimously.

County Staff update:

Total year 1 funding of \$ 6,745,713 and that all commitments to date equal \$2,667,668.37. Update on Circles of Care and STEPS Mobile MAT Vehicle Contracts, and update on CTS Marketing and the initial work to develop a Brevard County Campaign. CTS currently attending meetings with community stakeholders. Will meet with Space Coast League of Cities to present to multiple city representatives.

Ian Golden stated that the County would possibly make a request to the recommendations committee to go to the County Commissioners to extend the Mobile Mat contracts because of how long it took to get their programs up and running. He asked this committee to review and look at what they want the county to do for a new RFP. It was discussed that in 2023 there were three RFP's however only two were applied for and funded. The Education and Training RFP did not receive applications. There was a warm hand off portion of the MAT RFP but there were no applications for those services.

Public Comment:

Speaker 1- Johhnette Gindling from Space Coast Health Foundation

Johnette explained that Space Coast Health Foundation has many partners such as the Schools and the Department of Health. The Strategies and Approved uses were reviewed, and they would like to request funding be directed for prevention and early intervention. Physical health has many services for prevention and early intervention; however, mental health has not gotten to that point yet. First line of defense is counseling or Medication Assisted Treatment. The feedback received from their community partners was to request the funding be directed to those components. Under item G 8, 11 and 12 should be considered. Under mental health, schools have lost a lot of their funding for youth as well as community programs so that parents can be able to recognize and have guidance. The community partners also asked that assistance to first responders be considered. Space Coast Health Foundations currently works in prevention and early intervention and does work with first responders.

Speaker 2- Andrea Fant from Public Defender's Office.

Andrea requested funding to go to criminal justice because so many cases they see are substance use related. The defendants continue to cycle through the system repeatedly. She explained why Brevard needs more treatment programs. Seminole County for example has a center that provides treatment services, so those offenders who get caught with paraphernalia and small drug offenses go to that program, and not to the jail. The offenders go to treatment for 30-60 days while additional resources are sought. What this program is doing is cutting the criminal justice system out of addiction services.

Determine Focus Areas for Year 2

Ian spoke to request that the committee consider that if they expand a current service that they consider multiple year contracts. The total funding for year 2 is between 8-9 million and that includes carry over funds from year 1. If committee elects to extend the current Mobile Mat Contracts there would be a couple of ways. They could request to extend time, and no new dollars, or if a recommendation was to award new dollars, then it would come out of the money available for year 2. The current Mobile MAT providers are currently having logistical issues, not funding issues. Extending the contract would allow for more data and measurable results.

Maria Bledsoe recommended that Warm Hand Off's and Training remain critical. It is a recommendation that training for first responders be an option and to revisit those areas. Two community recommendations were also presented.

Clarification requested as to what type of training would be requested. Last year's RFP for Training was not responded to. Must address type of training focus. Need for Peer Recovery Programs to perform warm hand off's and need for additional on scene EMT Training. Satellite is successfully doing a Community Paramedic Program. A Roundtable or focus group with local agencies may be needed to ask them what they need for training. Need

more input from the boots on the ground. As more focus groups and workshops are scheduled by CTS, maybe they should be asking what areas of training are needed to the groups as they meet with the stakeholders.

Assistant Chief Acevedo stated that he felt the first responders training needed might be more of a broad awareness training, versus the more extensive training for peer support. Also, behavioral health training for the first responders would be a possibility due to job trauma. Obtaining information from each agency to find out what training is already being done would be beneficial information. Training is objective for this round. Various communities project the issue of training because it appears to be a message that always come up in meetings, and with the agencies. Community Paramedics on the treatment side is very new, some agencies are doing induction in the field, while some are not. Training can relate to how do EMS personnel handle their own trauma from their job, to training on handling overdose. That is one component. There is a counseling/treatment component too. Does Brevard have the capacity to handle the MAT services treatment. Focus may need to be on treatment. There is a lack of training in the field on how to assist families with information on facilities and treatment options. Training RFP last year was about training for more people to receive MAT services.

Ian Golden clarified that data be collected from staff from Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, ER as to what kind of training is needed. Talking to Police and Fire Chiefs would be a good connection. Melbourne Response Team was developed through grant funding from Central Florida Cares. Rebecca Thibert explained that when someone is in a mental health crisis, the Melbourne Officers go out with the case worker from Brevard Cares so that the person in crisis can get immediate mental health support on the call, right then. It is police services working with the mental health professionals, and it has been very successful. Brevard Cares is currently meeting with different municipalities to express they have a North and South Team in Brevard County to let the areas know that they have entire teams to include case management, psychiatric services, and peer recovery services. They have an entire team. The team will start services in the field and stay with the individual and follow them for up to 90 days to connect them to whatever treatment they need based on the individual assessment.

Ian Golden inquired about the grant for mobile response being expanded from mental health into mental health and substance abuse. Maria Bledsoe stated that the Department is behind on some things, and at this time there has been no information shared. Maria Bledsoe requested presentations at the next meeting. Staff can provide data and bring it back to you.

Jean Bandish asked if the Opioid Funds can be used for clients who have opioid disorder as well as other substance use disorders. The County will follow what the state is doing. Maria will bring back more information to the next meeting.

Rebecca re-capped that staff will set presentations for Community Paramedic Programs, Warm Hand-off's, and Peer Recovery Training. The data to be gathered will be from Public Safety and Law Enforcement.

Patricia Seibert asked if they needed to vote on the recommendation to extend the current MAT Contracts. Ian Golden stated he will have the Recommendations Committee do that. That will then turn into an agenda item for the Board of County Commissioners.

Meeting Adjourned 10:59 am.