

MDAR Advisory Committee

on Implementation of Rules for Removing Unsanctioned Homeless Encampments

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00- 8:00 PM

Boards & Commission Room, L280

Notes

Present: Patricia McInturff, Colleen Echohawk, Leslie Howard, Erin Goodman, Flo Beaumon, Mark Lloyd, Harold Odom, Mike Steward, Quynh Pham, Sheila Sebron, Juan Cotto, Dennis Cook

Absent: Michael Neguse, James Hurd

Staff Present: Jackie St. Louis, Chris Potter, George Scarola, Robert Stowers, Emily Nolan, Fred Podesta, Lisa Gustaveson, Deputy Mayor Moseley

**Welcome/Introductions**

The co-chairs opened the meeting by welcomed Dennis Cook to the Advisory Committee, and refreshing the group on their Charter.

**Message from the Office of Mayor**

Deputy Mayor David Moseley thanked the members for their time and commitment to the committee. He conveyed that homelessness is a top priority of the Mayor. He reiterated the Mayor's appreciation for their time and encouraged members to reach out to him if they have ideas on how to better engage and partner.

Q – Is the Mayor still behind more tiny homes.

A – Yes, we are looking at new investments to get people into tiny homes (may be different types).

Q – Any plan to infuse workforce development into the housing/homelessness work.

A - Yes. I can get you in touch with the right people who can give you the details.

**Public Comment Period**

C – I am glad to see the Parks Department here. I want to put a shout out for the environment. The camping in parks is detrimental to our environment. It is a problem that will affect generations.

C – I am here to advocate for the parks. There are many people camping in and around the parks. This discourages families and elderly folks from using the parks. There needs to be designated areas outside Seattle Parks that are set up for camping that don't damage our parks and infrastructure.

C – How can we get people inside and not resort to hostile infrastructure.

### **Navigation Team 2017 Data Review - Chris Potter and Jackie St. Louis**

(see presentation)

Q – Do not see any numbers for health care requests?

A – Health care access is not frequently asked for. We do work with a nurse out in the field and we do make health referrals.

C – I talk to a lot of people who are not in large camps. How much outreach is happening at encampments that are going to be cleaned/removed vs. to people who are camping alone and not in encampments? What is your capacity?

A – We are deliberate about our outreach (REACH), we (the City) have increased capacity. We are paying attention to when we are doing outreach, and we have reached a bottle neck of where to put people.

C – I want to see the City move faster. Licton Springs is a bottle neck.

A – We don't have the same referral capacity we had when we started, but we do have daily capacity to get individuals inside. We are assessing if what we are doing works for all people involved. We are being deliberate in looking at race and how we deliver services.

Q – Where does substance abuse services fit in?

A – We need to look at more data. We do have people going into the low barrier shelters – we thought the numbers would have been higher.

C- You are capturing services and data for what happens in the field, not what happens once individuals are placed in housing or shelter.

Q – Why are people not asking for substance abuse resources?

A – Most of what we see is heroin. Current lack of supply vs demand means we are not able to respond in "real time".

Q – Are you seeing youth and young adults?

A – We are not seeing them at the same level as single adults. We do partner with YouthCare, and engage with them on outreach when we encounter youth.

Q - Why are African Americans not getting in to housing?

A – Possibly because their first choice is not availability , I don't want to speculate without looking at the data more.

Q – What is the proportion of people asking for shelter vs. what shelter is available?

A – We can always offer something to get people inside, but we are not always able to offer what the client is asking for. Some shelters are just not used (requested).

C – In the future can we get more about what people are asking for vs. what they get.

Q – How is the data being looked at? Are there any outside organizations helping to think through what the data means?

A – We are working to get our data looked at and analyzed by other sources.

C – Maybe Public Health can help you analyze the data. They have epidemiologist that are experts at analyzing and interpreting.

Q – Can you get into HMIS---we understand their has been a problem associated security?

A – We have developed a work around that allows us to access HMIS data. It is not ideal but it works.

C – We need to find a way to get more HMIS access.

C – We don't need the police to have access to HMIS data. The encampments do have access.

Q – What is the turn-around time for responding to community inquiries?

C – I would love to see this committee balance the needs of housing people and the communities needs. They are both important if this program is going to succeed.

Q – Would another Navigation Team really help with the effort? What other resources could help the Navigation Team do their work?

A – We don't have a system that can deal with Mental Health issues. More capacity to deal with Mental Health issues, and more places/services to refer individuals to go to would be helpful.

Q – Do need you need to have a nurse go out with you (that can focus on harm reduction)?

A – We have the capacity to have a nurse go out with us.

Q – What do we do with the declines – what happens when people keep declining services? We know there are some people that really don't want help, and we are going to have to address that at some point.

Q – Are we seeing any declines of the number of people living outside?

Q – Are you seeing any difference on the street?

A – Not as many big encampments, and more of an understanding of the Navigation Team.

C – We need to be capturing people by name and know who is out there.

C – I carry narcan, people need to take first AID – homelessness is painful, not an experience. We need to attack this issue.

C – We are still not connecting with the Asian community. We need to do more around outreach and service placement.

Q – Do we ask why people don't want to go to shelter?

A – We capture it in the qualitative data.

### **Racial Equity Took Kit Update - Jackie St. Louis**

(see presentation)

Q – Are you going to bring us potential changes to the MDAR's?

C – We are way past the “early in the process”.

Q – What is the connection with the community?

A – We are wrestling with that now, we want to be accountable to the whole community.

Q – You mentioned Human Services Department they need to be a partner. Are they at the table?

A – They have staff at the table.

Q – Is the Navigation Team moving to the Human Services Department?

A – There are transition conversations in progress.

Q – How are we holding leaders to being accountable to recognizing systemic racism?

C – I believe we need to keep diving into the race/equity lens. I would encourage the business community to engage with this work.

Q – How was the People's Institute selected as your consultant?

A – They rose to the top after some exploration.

### **Discussion/Committee Direction - Colleen and Patricia**

The Office of Civil Rights will be at our next meeting to give an overview of their report.

MDAR Changes/Recommendations to Council - Chris Potter

(see presentation)

C – It would be great to see what calls are coming into Citizen Service Bureau .

C – Emphasis zones are not being treated correctly.

C – If we make an emphasis zone, the City needs to have consistent and timely follow through.

Q- How do we determine emphasis zones?

C – We need more services in Ballard, it would be good for communities to see what services are needed.

Q – Are people in the encampments engaged in helping to evaluate the MDARS?

C – I would like to see Customer Service Bureau 2016 vs 2017/2018 calls.

C – There are resources in the community that we could call on to respond to all of the community needs.

Q – Can we ask the Council to do two parts – staff recommendations and then Committee.

C- We can also move our Committee meeting, we need to come hand in hand with our recommendations.

C – We can move the next meeting to April 3<sup>rd</sup>?

A—Consensus to move the meeting to April 3.

### **Wrap Up/Next Steps**

Next Meetings: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 9th