

Agenda
City of St. Petersburg
Youth and Family Services
Thursday, February 13, 2020 @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunshine Center Auditorium

Members: Robert Blackmon, Brandi Gabbard, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Alternate: Amy Foster

Support Staff: Kayleigh Sagonowsky, City Council Legislative Aide

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

C. Approval of November 14, 2019 minutes

D. New Business:

- **Juvenile Auto-Theft Mitigation Study (Dewey Caruthers)**

E. Upcoming Meetings – April 16, 2020 @ 10:00 am

F. Adjournment

Report
City of St. Petersburg
Youth and Family Services
Thursday, November 14, 2019 @ 1:30 p.m.
Sunshine Center – Auditorium

Present: Chair Amy Foster, Vice Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, CM Brandi Gabbard, CM Charlie Gerdes, CM Steve Kornell – Alternate

Also Present: Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin, Tom Greene, Rob Gerdes, Christina Boussias

Support Staff: Kyandra Darling El-Amin, City Council Legislative Aide

A. Call to Order and Roll Call – 1:30pm

B. Approval of August 15, 2019 Minutes – Approved unanimously.

C. New Business:

Partnership to End Childhood Homelessness (*Councilmember Steve Kornell and Susan Myers*)

CM Kornell started with a PowerPoint presentation to review the proposal. He shared that PEMHS is requesting \$250,000 of new funding to start a pilot program aimed to eliminate homelessness at the seven Transformation Zone schools in St. Pete. He added the first priority would be street homeless and the second would be students living in motels or emergency shelters. The chart presented showed that four hundred and sixty-eight students were identified as homeless in the seven TZ schools for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Susan Myers, Director of the Homeless Leadership Board, said that there are more than thirty families on the literally homeless waitlist in Pinellas county, they aren't tracked by city.

CM Gabbard asked if there's a need identified for a student in another school would they be able to receive services. CM Kornell says it's important to demonstrate that the program makes an impact on homelessness and the schools. He added that it could be changed if that's the desire of City Council, but we would lose the research and evaluation element and how it affects the school.

CM Wheeler-Bowman asked if the St. Petersburg Housing Authority seemed interested in providing services to homeless students similarly to Pinellas County Housing Authority. CM Kornell said yes, they are open to the discussion.

CM Gerdes asked where the amount of \$250,000 came from. CM Kornell said he felt it was reasonable to start with and the team felt anything would be helpful to move this forward. He believes this will help to quantify and clearly identify what is able to be done with the requested funding. CM Gerdes said he would be happy to over appropriate on this item if there's unspent money at the end of the year. He asked how the funding would be split.

CM Kornell answered the funds remaining after paying the staff person would have to be split amongst the schools using a formula that considers the number of homeless students at each school, with some flexibility. CM Gerdes asked if PHEMS tracked educational outcomes or data on the forty-three students placed. CM Kornell said PEMHS didn't provide that but going forward the school system has agreed to provide aggregated data. He added that he can go back and ask PEMHS if they have this data available. CM Gerdes asked Mr. Gerdes if he had an idea of where this money would be coming from. Mr. Gerdes said this funding would not come from their budget. Deputy Mayor Tomalin said this funding would have to be found in contingency.

Chair Foster shared the concern that she isn't comfortable with someone being a sole-source provider that isn't participating in the system already and is not housing first. CM Kornell responded that PEMHS has agreed to attend provider meetings and enter information in HMIS which can be reinforced with a contract. Chair Foster asked PCS Associate Superintendent Lori Matway if she would be in opposed to RFP'ing the process. Ms. Matway answered that PEMHS seemed like the logical and fastest option because they are already in the schools, but PCS is not married to any group. She added that the provider needs to be able to act quickly and immediately because there's great need. She also noted that the largest group of homeless youth fall under the four to twelve-year-old age group. Deputy Mayor Tomalin added that this is not a proposal from the City and we aren't seeking a vendor to provide services, this is a funding request that has come to Council for consideration. She added that creating an RFP would slow the process.

CM Gabbard raised the concern that this wouldn't automatically be in the budget going forward and she wants the City to take the time and diligence to make this an ongoing solution because the problem isn't going to go away. CM Kornell believes there's some flexibility for Council to make this an ongoing solution. He clarified that PEMHS did not request to be in this position so he is open to modifications, but he would humbly request that Council consider the people on the ground working with families. He added that most of the committee felt PEMHS was streamlined because they are already placed at chosen schools. Chair Foster reiterates that she feels PEMHS falls behind the other possible providers that could be used. She suggested that it may make more sense to give the funding to the Homeless Leadership Board who could then handle the RFP process. She asked Ms. Myers to respond to HLB's ability to handle the RFP process if given the funds. Ms. Myers said that during the committee meetings she did express her support for a competitive process because that is typically what HLB does. She added that it is a challenge as far as bandwidth but she's sure they could manage the request if it was assigned to them.

Action: CM Gerdes moved that the committee recommends to City Council an appropriation of \$275,000 to offer to HLB, to identify and select a vendor to provide the scope of services identified in CM Kornell's presentation to the seven schools as a pilot program. He added that from the \$275,000 HLB can use up to \$25,000 for the administrative costs of doing the RFP and any money left over goes towards the pilot program. The motion passed unanimously.

CM Kornell said he wants to be sure HLB can serve the students as outlined, or their selected vendor. Chair Foster answered that the services are always related to the dollars and not the philosophy.

E. Adjournment

**YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
PENDING/CONTINUING REFERRALS**

13-Feb-20

Topic	Return Date	Date of Referral	Prior Meeting	Referred by	Staff/ Presenter	Notes
African American Quality of Life Study/ Funding utilization of an African American Quality of Life Study and possible creation of an AAQL Committee.	TBD	9/6/18	4/11/19	Gabbard	Jabaar Edmonds and Janet Wright	<p>9/6/18 – Requesting a Committee a discussion regarding the funding and utilization of an African American Quality of Life Study and the possible creation of an African American Quality of Life Committee.</p> <p>4/11/19 - CM Gabbard moved to respectfully ask administration for the creation of an African American Quality of Life Committee, approved unanimously at full council on 4/18/19.</p> <p>CM Gabbard moved to have the AAQL Study return to YFS following the release of the Healthy Foundation 2019 Equity Profile on 4/18/19, approved unanimously.</p>
Juvenile Auto-Theft Mitigation Study		12/19/18	4/11/2019 8/15/2019	Gerdes Driscoll	Dewey Caruthers	<p>1/3/19 - Respectfully requesting a referral to the Youth & Family Services Committee to consider an appropriation of \$10,000 from the FY 2019 Contingency Fund to the Caruthers Institute to complete a research study on effective juvenile auto theft mitigation programs.</p> <p>4/11/19 - Chair Foster moved to approve \$10,000 and to move the item to full council for further discussion so that CM Gerdes could participate and share additional thoughts.</p> <p>8/15/19 - CM Gerdes moved to ask Mr. Caruthers to put together a proposal for identifying and recommending a national model and for legal to investigate how the restorative justice approach would fit into the state statute and how the City would carry it out. The motion passes unanimously.</p>



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// contents

1. InSTITUTE overview
 2. Epidemic recap
 3. Study recap
 4. Explore solutions
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// Section 1

Institute Overview



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// Institute Overview

DATA-DRIVEN SOCIAL CHANGE

Process:

1. Conduct research
2. Craft solutions
3. Lead advocacy

RESEARCH

SOLUTIONS

ADVOCACY



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// Institute Overview

INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN

Focus is on the data – not any ideology or partisan talking points



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// Section 2

Epidemic Recap



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// Epidemic Recap

5-YEAR PROBLEM SNAPSHOT: PINELLAS

- Ranked 1st in Florida for juvenile auto thefts 4 of the past 5 years (other year ranking 2nd)
 - Last year 4 of the state's top 20 zip codes for teen auto thefts - 3 in St. Petersburg, 1 in Clearwater.
 - Average of nearly four deaths per year
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// Epidemic Recap

AUTO THEFT REDUCTIONS PLATEAUED / ROOT CAUSES REMAIN UNADDRESSED

- Reductions in arrests have plateaued last year and law enforcement cannot drive-down auto thefts farther (law enforcement has done all it can)
 - Root causes of juvenile auto theft remain unaddressed by City of St. Petersburg
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// Section 3

Study Recap



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// Study Recap

INPUT FROM NEARLY 150 PEOPLE

- Former judges, prosecutors, public defenders, social workers, child advocates and policy makers
 - Pinellas judges
 - Mayors and city managers and county commissioners
 - Sheriff and police chiefs
 - Pinellas court juvenile behavioral evaluation program
 - Law enforcement officers with HOME program
 - Youth and families involved in teen auto theft
 - Key community leaders and community organizations that advocate for the African-American community
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// Study Recap

LITERATURE REVIEWS

- International literature review of juvenile auto theft and a national literature review of solutions
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// Study Recap

RELEVANT STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Everyone should quit looking to law enforcement, which has done all it can, to solve the problem.
 - St. Petersburg should explore a pilot to more quickly drive down juvenile auto thefts and address root causes.
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// Section 4

Explore Solutions



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// Explore Solutions

EXPLORE 2 PROGRAMS:

1. Cure Violence program, adapted for teen auto theft
2. Restorative community conferences

Community-driven efforts

(solution is not more arrests, which are not deterring youth)



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PROGRAM 1 - CURE VIOLENCE

- Credible messenger, peer-to-peer program
 - Many youth are not inclined to take a message from law enforcement about the short- and long-term dangers of joyriding.
 - If a person who has been through the same challenges in their lives delivers the message, youth are much more likely to consider it.
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PROGRAM 1 - CURE VIOLENCE

Cure Violence stops the spread of violence with an epidemiological approach.

- Credible messengers as responders.
 - Reductions in violence of up to 70%.
 - Reductions in social norms that support violence compared to similar neighborhoods without program.
 - More than 60 sites.
 - Recently started in Jax, FL.
 - Can be adapted for joyriding / teen auto theft.
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PROGRAM 1 - CURE VIOLENCE

Cure Violence addresses root causes that lead to offenses other than auto theft / joyriding

- Many youth involved in auto theft are also involved in burglary, drugs, truancy – also can be addressed with Cure Violence



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PROGRAM 2 - RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCES

Facilitated dialogue in which young people who are responsible for doing harm, along with family and community, meet with their crime victims to create a plan to repair the harm done.

- It is most effective with serious crimes in which there is an identifiable victim, such as car theft.
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PROGRAM 2 - RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCES

Much lower recidivism rates than the traditional juvenile legal system.

- Only 18% of people completing the program committed another delinquent act compared to 32% of a control group of youth processed through the traditional juvenile system.
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PROGRAM 2 - RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCES

High victim satisfaction and lower costs.

- 91% of participating victims reported that they would do so again.
- RCC costs about \$4,500 per participant, versus the \$23,000 for a year in the county's juvenile probation.



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LOCAL PARTNER / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Identify potential nonprofits to implement the two programs in St. Petersburg
 - Share pilot research with community / gain feedback on role of the community in solutions
 - Identify funders (beyond City of St. Petersburg)
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KEY DELIVERABLES / \$25,000

- 2-3 Site visits with Cure Violence and Restorative Community Conferencing
 - Concept outline of how programs would be implemented in St. Petersburg
 - Comparative analysis of 10 program sites to St. Petersburg
 - Develop a list of program costs and recommendations on funders beyond city
 - Identify local nonprofit partner
 - Gather community feedback on proposed solutions
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