

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2021**

Commission Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Marshall (Palace Apartments), Theresa Williams (CIT Program Manager, Co-chair), Ginny Merriam (Mayor's Office), John Engen (Mayor), Ryan Kamura (Crime Prevention Officer), Amy Allison Thompson (Poverello Center), Dan Cederberg (Attorney), Ethan Lerman (Municipal Court Judge), Keithi Worthington (City Attorney) and Juanita Vero (County Commissioner)

Commission Members Absent: Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Bryan von Lossberg (City Council, Co-chair), Randy Krastel (BID Police Officer), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Eran Fowler Pehan (Community Planning, Development and Innovation), Ryan Boyd (Salvation Army) and Lt. Jake Rosling (Police Officer)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office), Linda McCarthy (Missoula Downtown), Ben Slater (Law Enforcement Lead CIT Coordinator), Randy Okon (CARES Program Manager), Terry Kendrick (Program Manager for Strategic Alliance), Doug Cook (CIT Practicum Student) and Brad Davis (Assistant Fire Chief)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 10, 2020 were approved as submitted.

1. Introductions and Welcome
2. Public Comment - None
3. Current Issues Update

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program Update – Theresa Williams, CIT Program Manager, and Corporal Ben Slater, Law Enforcement Lead CIT Coordinator

Theresa Williams and Ben Slater discussed the CIT Program and its history. It started in the 1980's in Memphis, Tennessee after a community uproar over how a police officer handled a mentally ill man of color. The mayor and citizens of Memphis wanted to find a better way to help the mentally ill. CIT is a non-profit that began in 2014 and its goals were to increase safety, to provide connections to people all under one roof, to increase community support by using law enforcement strategically and to improve client outcomes by using integrated crisis care.

Please see the attached presentation for more information about the CIT program in Missoula.

- Mobile Support Team Update – Randy Okon, CARES Program Manager, and Brad Davis, Assistant Fire Chief

Randy Okon introduced himself and said he was added to the Mobile Support Team on November 16, 2020. He works in an attempt to cover a gap in service but they were still trying to figure out a clear delineation on hours and days someone is needed. Most calls are in the city and there are approximately 2 – 4 calls per day. He was refining the process and is able to admit people directly to Dakota House without using emergency responders. He is very proactive with community engagement and has worked with the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) on the Reserve Street Encampment and the Johnson Street site so emergency responders are not needed or engaged. He said that the Mobile Support Team worked outside of 911 and will be very positive for the community. He was currently hiring new clinicians for his team.

Mayor Engen asked if there had been operational changes at the Dakota House. Randy said that the providers have relationships with the Dakota House, and since the providers have been directly involved with the team, it has helped immensely.

Ryan Kamura added that the Dakota House had been having issues with COVID recently and have been shifting people around. Theresa Williams added that staffing has been an issue and at this time they are full. There has also been better communication with Dakota House. Ryan said that the Dakota House wants the police to use their services to deescalate issues and the new relationship has made a huge difference.

Keithi Worthington asked what the Mobile Support Team's purpose was. Randy said that the case facilitator does a follow-up to determine the path forward. They help with initial care and getting a person set up with appointments and medication.

Keithi wondered about those persons in the criminal justice system. It would be helpful to have information from Randy for prosecutors and the court in order to figure out a way to defer prosecution or with a person's mental health issues. Randy said he was currently looking for a way to incorporate that communication into the system.

Theresa suggested inviting Keithi to the bi-weekly stakeholders meetings.

4. Update on Downtown Issues

Linda McCarthy, of Missoula Downtown, stated that weird stuff was happening downtown. A person tagging buildings by gaining access to rooftops was proving to be elusive. There was also a fire behind Sorella's and downtown giftcard sales were up 25%.

Ryan Kamura explained that he had volunteers working on the downtown graffiti taking pictures and creating a database to identify those responsible.

Ginny Merriam asked Ryan about the fire behind Sorellas. The alley behind Sorellas is closed, which is bad because people are probably camping there. Ryan told Ginny he had some ideas and he would contact Ginny about it.

Amy Allison Thompson gave an update on the Poverello Center. Winter had been going smoothly and they were managing COVID well. At the Poverello Center they can manage 88 people while social distancing and at Johnson Street 150 people can be served. Because of some problems they moved the entrance to the Johnson Street facility to the north side of the building. It gives people more space and it's less disruptive to the neighborhood. Right now they are really trying to make it work so no one is out in the cold.

Dan Cederberg said he is hearing a lot in his neighborhood about the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (TSOS) and not the downtown. He lives in the Miller Creek area.

Elizabeth Marshall thanked the Downtown Business Improvement District Officers because she had to exclude someone from the Palace Apartments because this person was threatening her and Randy Okon and Ryan Kamura helped her. The Mobile Support Team (MST) responded and it was great.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Bakula, Executive Assistant