

**KERRVILLE RECOVERY COMMUNITY COALITION
REGULAR MEETING**

November 22, 2021

On Monday, November 22, 2021, the regular meeting of the members of the Recovery Community Coalition was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Sabine Kuenzel, Co-Chair, and then lead by Kendall Young, Chair upon her arrival at 4:30 pm.

Members Present:

Kendall Young
Rick Stolpman
Christa Lovett
Sabine Kuenzel
Thomas Hurt
Joseph Duprie
Joe Pizczor
Randie Benno
Cynthia Tate

Members Absent:

Brittany Andry
Michael Brooks
Leslie Marek
Leigh Ann Fitzpatrick
Nikki Saurage

City Executive Staff Present:

Eric Maloney, Fire Chief

Visitors Present:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1A. Approval of minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting. *Mr. Hurt move approval and Mr. Stolpman seconded, the minutes as written. Approved unanimously.*
1B. Approval of minutes of the October 28, 2021 meeting. *Mr. Hurt move approval and Mr. Stolpman seconded, the minutes as written. Approved unanimously.*

2. RECOGNIZE PARTNERS AND GUESTS:

- 2A. Introduction of Partners and Guests. *Randie Benno introduced Mr. . who is a manager at one of the men's recovery homes in the area.*

3. CITY OF KERRVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 3A Discussion of areas of challenges and opportunities related to the recovery community - *Assistant Chief Thomason provided an overview of interactions of police*

and members of the recovery community. Data reported was from this calendar year. There was not much change in relation to previous years, and there is an overall sense that conditions have improved over the past few years, since the last time the department made a report to the KRCC. Data is tracked by address, not by individuals, so it is difficult to prove the positive impact via service calls. There were 21 calls for service, fairly evenly distributed re: location, and were focused on issues such as theft, suicide prevention, public intoxication, and ambulance needed. Fentanyl does not seem to be too much of a problem here, yet, but opiates and meth tend to be prominent.

The coalition members asked what the department would like to see in terms of changes in practices that could help the department, and Chief Thomason stated that most often, it is the managers of the homes that request assistance from the department when they are required by house policy to request a resident to move out, and wish to keep an organized, peaceful approach to the process. It would be helpful if he had options for such individuals, rather than have them rendered homeless, with the strong likelihood that they could later turn up as a law violation case. At the moment, the Salvation Army is operating at a reduced capacity, and even when it had more resources, was not the optimum approach. Also, Chief Thomason stated that it would be helpful if the managers of the homes understood the limitations of the department, that they are focused on crimes and keeping the peace.

Ms. Benno stated that she had also noticed that the call burden to the crisis team at MHDD had increased over the past year. However, there is some good news as well as the bad. Christian Assistance Ministries used to hold fund raisers.

Mr. Stolpman suggested that additional support of the Salvation Army to return and perhaps even increase its service level could help. In the past, the SA had focused more on assistance to men versus women. He also added that some houses are better at managing to allow for a peaceful, quiet environment for their residents.

Mr. Hurt suggested that it might help to divert calls that are more along the "mental health" service needs.

Last time PD made a report, it had been a result of a "deep dive" into data, which is time and labor intensive. The range of overdose data tends to be in three-year increments. Other limits to the data and levels of reporting detail were outlined.

Therefore, it would be helpful if the Coalition has a specific question that it would like to research, that it be very methodical in phrasing that question.

There appeared general agreement that there are "gaps in the system" and that further discussion and research is warranted. Ideas included fund raisers, using the fire houses as a safety net option, adoption of homes standards, training, and funding.

4. KRCC EFFORTS REFOCUSSED

4A. Christmas Luncheon Workshop Dr. Young took input re: good dates and times to schedule this working lunch, and settled on Tuesday, December 14 at the Pinnacle Grill. Mr. Duprie stated that he is finalizing the invitation list and would forward it. The Coalition discussed the information to draw from the recovery home representatives, and concluded that the questions should be kept more "generic" and open ended, such as a question re: barriers, with examples such as transportation, education, personal ID's, legal, etc.

4B. 2022 Work plan. *This item was not specifically discussed outside of other agenda items.*

4C. Upcoming events. *The group briefly touched on International Night of Recovery in the coming year as well as a future potential warrants clinic.*

5. LOCALIZED REFERRAL NUMBERS

Ms. Benno volunteered to update the pocket guide that had been drafted by the Coalition in 2019. Ms. Kuenzel suggested that the team also develop a strategy for distribution once the new guides become available.

6. KRCC MEMBERSHIP STATUS

7A. Overview of member status 2021 Chief Maloney discussed the multiple open positions, which positions are up for renewal of a second term, as well as the members that will soon be term limited. The City Council will take action on appointments at the December 14, 2021 meeting.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

8A. Warrants clinic discussion with City Attorney's office

8B. Results of Christmas Luncheon discussion

8. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING, DATE AND TIME

9A. December 27, 2021, 4:00 P.M., Butt-Holdsworth Library Meeting Room

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: 02/28/2022

Kendall Young
Kendall Young, Chairperson

ATTEST: J.R.D. Secretary