

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness
February 24, 2022

Present: Mayor Lauren Meister, Mayor Pro Tempore Sepi Shyne, Director of Human Services & Rent Stabilization Christof Schroeder, Public Safety Director Kristin Cook, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Social Services Manager David Giugni, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Elizabeth Anderson, Social Services Program Administrator Katie Egan, Assistant City Clerk Alyssa Poblador, City Clerk Melissa Crowder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 A.M.

Staff requested that Item 4.A. "BeWell Presentation" be heard before Item 3.A. The request to hear Item 4.A. first was approved by Mayor Meister and Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne.

Item 4.A. Presentation From BeWell Orange County Mobile Response Team

Mr. Anthony Delgado gave a presentation on BeWell's Mobile Response Team based out of Orange County, California. Land from their three locations in Orange, Irvine, and coming soon to North OC were provided by Orange County and funds required to run the program were acquired by local philanthropists. Many town halls were held to have these Mobile Response Teams come to fruition. Based on the demonstrated success of the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) model, BeWell OC Mobile Response is a non-emergency first response to residents experiencing mental health, substance use, and homeless-related crises.

- This model alleviates the current burden on police and fire/EMS to manage crises that derive from emotional distress, substance use, and homelessness.
- Provide appropriate care for the appropriate situation that may not require a police officer, for example dealing with a child or an elderly person at a nursing facility.
- Each mobile unit has two staff members, one is an EMT and the other is a behavioral health clinician.
- The goal of the BeWell Mobile Response Team is to prevent unnecessary ER visits and focus on collaboration with EMS so patient safety is the top priority.
- Anyone (with or without insurance, housed or unhoused), including police and fire, can request BeWell Mobile via 911 or their non-emergency number. The response team can assist with psychosis or mania (although they cannot write 5150 holds), suicidal ideation, family disputes, people on the street/in shelters/group homes/skilled nursing facilities, welfare checks, and intoxicated people.
- They are local and mimic the demographic and diversity of the community.
- Common interventions include crisis de-escalation, conflict mediation, welfare checks, referrals to ongoing care, transport to staffed services, support for people experiencing homelessness, and referral to non-emergency care.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne and Mayor Meister both thanked Mr. Delgado for the presentation.

Mayor Meister inquired about the acronym “CAT” used during Mr. Delgado’s presentation. Mr. Delgado responded it stands for Centralized Assessment Team, an engagement team to assist with people experiencing homelessness and comprised of clinicians conducting 5150 evaluations.

Mayor Meister asked if the BeWell Response Team receives funding from the County, and Mr. Delgado replied that they do not, but are in constant communication in where they intersect in services. She followed up with a question regarding the campus funding, and Mr. Delgado stated it is funded in part by County contracts. She inquired if the campus was a large part of their success, and Mr. Delgado responded that it is due to having a physical location to take intoxicated members of the community.

Mayor Meister inquired how many units they have, and Mr. Delgado responded that they base it on need and City data. She asked if they have seen a decrease in calls since they started, and he said there are less calls that police need to respond to since dispatch sends them out instead. He further shared that they are being requested now by name. She asked about cost, and Mr. Delgado responded that each City has different funding sources.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne asked about dispatch training and Mr. Delgado described the training the teams undergo by UC Irvine’s Medical Center alongside police on how to respond, de-escalate situations, and proper approaches. She asked how the 2-person teams split driving, and Mr. Delgado responded that one drives and the other enters information or responds to the radio.

Mayor Meister queried if Orange County has a tax to go to homeless services similar to Measure H, and Mr. Delgado responded that they do.

TORY BERGER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about case workers, continuum of care, and prevention of recidivism.

Mayor Meister asked if Mr. Delgado is familiar with the Home Team Pilot, and he indicated that he is not.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne thanked Mr. Delgado again and commented that she looks forward to staff moving forward with BeWell’s information and streamlining it to meet WeHo’s needs. She expressed her appreciation of the simplicity of the “BeWell” name and requested staff to model something similar. She requested that as part of the City’s planning for the Behavioral Health Crisis Unit that staff include consideration for uniforms that are easily identifiable.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne asked Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck if West Hollywood has any sobering stations or facilities. Ms. Planck responded that the City does not at this time, but pilot programs are underway in Los Angeles and Skid Row which may be expanded to our region. She asked about the possibility of renting commercial

spaces to be a future access center. Mr. Delgado then offered a tour of their sobering center.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne inquired if the City has a detox center close by, and Ms. Planck replied we contract for detox services through Tarzana Treatment Center. Social Services Manager David Giugni responded that Being Alive is in Hollywood, and in West Hollywood every weekend. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne directed staff to look into the possibility of an expansion of Being Alive's contract to include a detox center and to bring an item to the City Council for formal consideration. Mr. Giugni further suggested that the City partner with our existing treatment providers like McIntyre House and Awakenings Recovery since detox beds are available with these providers. He further commented that the discussion is timely since the Social Services Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released in May for funding decisions for the 2022-2025 grant cycle.

Mayor Meister suggested that the property the City recently acquired across from City Hall may be utilized for a medical tent or access center.

Item 3.A. Homelessness Subcommittee Meeting Frequency

City Clerk Crowder inquired if the subcommittee would like to continue meeting the 4th Thursday of every month or transition to every other month, or quarterly. She noted that the subcommittee has met for a year with much direction to staff, so it seemed timely to inquire about the meeting frequency.

Mayor Meister indicated she would like to go to every other month, with the flexibility to call a special meeting if an urgent need arises. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne agreed.

Items from Subcommittee Members

Mayor Meister and Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne praised staff for the robust and educational Community Update on Homelessness on February 16th.

Items from Staff

Social Services Manager David Giugni highlighted the homelessness prevention work that continues along with emergency rental assistance partnering with NCJW and Alliance for Housing and Healing. He shared that to date, the City has assisted 685 individual community members and provided 1,932 emergency rental assistance grants with a total of \$1.6 million. Also, through the City's contract with Bet Tzedek for eviction prevention services, the City has assisted 210 community members and resolved 140 cases. An item on the eviction moratoria and additional services will be coming to the March 21st City Council meeting. He has asked the social service teams to designate at least one shift to serving the new West Hollywood Park to continue focus on our unhoused community members.

Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Elizabeth Anderson provided an update that the replay of the Community Update on Homelessness can be found at www.weho.org/homeless and on YouTube at WeHoTV. She further commented that a subscription email list has been created where members of the community can sign up for division activities, interest in homelessness prevention, aging in place, and opportunities to participate. In looking ahead, she noted that the Strategic Initiatives Division will bring an update on the Behavioral Health Response team to City Council at the March 21st meeting. She concluded her comments by announcing that the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program's application period opens on February 25th, and that staff looks forward to that process getting started.

**THESE INFORMATIONAL NOTES ARE PREPARED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
AND ARE NOT APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 A.M. to the next subcommittee meeting on April 28, 2022 at 8:30 AM via teleconference.



Alyssa T. Poblader, Assistant City Clerk