

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL DRUG STRATEGY
TASK FORCE MEETING
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, 11:00 AM**

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**MUNICIPAL DRUG STRATEGY
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, 11:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Drug Strategy Task Force was called to order by Emily Kaltenbach, Chair, on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 11:00 am, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Emily Kaltenbach, Chair
Laurie Knight
Dr. Michael DeBernardi
Marcela Diaz
Chris Wendel
Larry Martinez

Sophie Andar
Andres Mercado
Rachel O'Conner
Jesse Cirrola
Dr. Wendy Johnson
Sylvia Barela

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Laura Brown, Excused
Denise Herrera, Excused
Dr. Dwyer, Excused
Alex Dominguez
Bret Smoker, Excused

Tony Dixon, Excused
Dr. Tim Condon, Excused
Sue O'Brien
John Osborne
Kathy Armijo-Etre, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor Michael Harris
Kyra Ochoa, Director, Community Services, City of Santa Fe
Jimmy Milek, Albuquerque Fire and Rescue
Paul Jolley, Deputy Chief, SF Police Department Operations
Captain Tapia
Michelle Lis
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Wendel, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

Postponed

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. WELCOME

Chair Kaltenbach said thank you for taking time to be here. It is important to our work. Michelle will facilitate the session today. Around the room on the wall is a subset of recommendations that each group worked hard on. Thank you to each subcommittee for going back and revising and relooking at your recommendations. We are going to identify any recommendations that anyone has heartburn with today. We will work on overlap recommendations between this meeting and the next. We went from 80 recommendations to 60. We have 41 today to talk about. Her guess is we will end up with around 50 or less due to duplication. After finalizing the recommendations we will be going into the implementation planning phase for a road map for the City Council and mayor. Our work is due to be done at the end of December.

Ms. Andar asked are we going to use the matrix designed to guide the recommendations. She is concerned about how feasibility is determined.

Ms. Kaltenbach said it will be rooted in our community conversations and rooted in core principals and if they align with our work outline.

Ms. Lis said there are four subcommittees who have been working on the recommendations. We had an initial vetting then we took ideas back to the subcommittees and they worked them. We feel the best way to go about this is to talk about the ones where we do not have complete consensus. We want to hone into that today. Do they meet the criteria we set out. This is one last chance to say if there is a recommendation you have an issue with. The recommendations are on the charts on wall. The dots you have are for you to put on the ones that you have issues with and need to be discussed.

Ms. Kaltenbach said the cost criteria is something to think about for implementation. We don't have to have the resources right now.

Ms. Diaz said we were told to be aspirational and think about long term strategy. She thinks there are several things we can be a bit more broad on in the criteria.

Ms. Kaltenbach said this criteria is more about the second stage and to think about issues.

Ms. Lis stated that a spread sheet is available to the members in the meeting information.

There was discussion around the City and County role.

Ms. Knight said our role is to present these objectives and what we think the community needs wherever that support comes from. Don't get lost in the weeds or shrink our mandate. This is what we are hearing from the community and what the community needs. It should not be prioritized by feasibility.

Chair Kaltenbach said think about if the City has some role in these. There are some that are happening now. How can this group affirm that.

Ms. Ochoa said she agrees with the mission of the task force. The fine point is on the definition of funding. She would like to see the wording say seek funding rather than necessarily get funding from the City General Fund.

Councilor Harris said he thinks the discussion about where the task force is right now and aspirational is appropriate, but acknowledging the collaborative effort between the City and County is critical. We all agree that we need to be doing more, not less collaboration. He thinks that is how you want to move forward in determining recommendations and implementation. Stress that.

Ms. O'Conner said she will note County on each recommendation where the County is involved and already doing something.

The members of the task force placed dots on each of the recommendations they had problems with.

Ms. Lis said look around. There is a lot of consensus on a lot of these. We will start with the ones that have the most dots.

#24 Create High User Clinic

Ms. Cirrola said there is inherently a problem when we segregate a portion of our population. She would like to see all of our service providers take the same services to all utilizers rather than segregate them.

Mr. Martinez said he agrees. People have healthcare needs that are pretty universal. If they have other healthcare needs they are deprived of that in a specialized clinic. He thinks we work with all our services. Mental health always has a difficulty compared to other special needs issues. There are a lot of people functioning that are

trying to go to school and work and thrive.

Ms. Barela said she agrees. This came from Kathy. She thinks it should be removed. It came out of the recognition that we are not providing wrap around services to this group. There are gaps in the service array and gaps in the collaborative process. Maybe this recommendation can somehow be reworked to indicate that there is a need or desire for an investigation into what services are needed. Identify and address the gaps.

Ms. O'Conner said the County has a Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and has a team looking specifically at what the gaps are and top priorities for the community in trying to address behavioral issues. We are not identifying high users, but community needs for intermediate care so they don't get to higher levels of care. We are looking at aligning our language where we can all have buy in.

Ms. Cirrola said one of the things we see is we frequently receive referrals for folks that are complex, but not high users.

Chair Kaltenbach said some of the recommendations to come have to do with treatment on demand and access to service when that person is ready. Maybe integrate this into a couple of other recommendations.

Mr. Mercado said the City has one Department that does direct patient services. The Fire Department. Bolstering the direct services there makes the most sense. Setting up a clinic is very complex and extremely aspirational. We come together okay around some of these cases now, but it is not set up as a system. It just happens when someone says lets get together and figure that out. Right now it is a shoelace approach, but it is an exception, not a rule. The City could have a role in facilitating that.

Ms. Ochoa said we do have the seeds of that in the Connect Program. Theses are mostly around peoples social needs, but could include homecare needs. It could be a virtual version of the clinic.

Ms. Barela said she concurs with Andres. She would love to see the recommendation reworded rather than combined. These are complex cases. Phrase it around a collaborative effort.

Ms. Lis said we will rewrite number 24 with the City role in a collaborative process.

Chair Kaltenbach said there is a system of care recommended that is not here. She thinks it would go there.

Ms. Lis sand we will return to this one at the next meeting.

#15 Ms. Lis said this recommendation should have said immigrant access to healthcare. We will rewrite this one to read as is should have. Does that clarify it for everyone or are there still issues.

Mr. Mercado said the issue is the specificity. He would like to advocate for increased care for everyone.

Chair Kaltenbach said we were asked to identify any specific State level campaigns and legislation that we wanted the City to stand up and support. There is already something happening around that. We could put that on the list that goes to the Mayor's office.

Ms. Cirrola asked could you send us the legislation list going forward.

Ms. Diaz said there is not specific legislation yet.

Chair Kaltenbach said the question is should we split it out.

Ms. Diaz said #14 and #15 are one recommendation.

Mr. Mercado said the City is self insured for healthcare. A lot of money is spent by the City on healthcare. The County has a healthcare assistance program. This may not be the right role for the City.

Ms. O'Connor said the County has the Healthcare Policy and Planning Commission and we do advocate for those sorts of things. We are engrossed in that. Our number one priority is healthcare for all.

Ms. Ochoa said the way in which the City does that is restricted. We have Human Services Committee public members and we staff it. We also have the Children and Youth Committee, both with two year grant cycles. A portion of funding comes through those. We are talking about \$60,000 in each Committee. We need to revamp and get more like the County and find a new revenue source for these kinds of things.

Mr. Mercado said 90% of our calls are medical. \$12 million in City spending directly funds direct healthcare services. So the City spends a ton of money on that. These are the populations we are serving.

Councilor Harris said he supports what Andres and Kyra said. Not only that, but there is a huge investment in the Fire Department expanding as well and now that is formalized. He sees an even greater role for that group to play. He has sat in on grant cycles with the Committees Kyra mentioned. The amount of money is so small and it gets diluted so much, he wonders if it makes a difference at all. #14 is very difficult to do as phrased.

Ms. Lis said we will remove the fund part and put advocate for.

Ms. Andar said she would like to continue to look at it fiscally. She recommends that a financial impact assessment be conducted to determine the value of the funds going toward emergency response and expand funding for insurance as a preventative. That would reduce the amount of emergency response needed.

Ms. Knight said in terms of language, move people categorized as HIV/AIDS patients to the people first language. Add the LGBTQ community as well.

Ms. Lis said on the table is #14 and 1#5.

Chair Kaltenbach said we will take direction from the prevention subcommittee on how they would like to reword this.

Ms. Cirrola said the intention was talking about the insurance pool to reference there is a structure of how that is being done at State level that could be a model. The intention was to bring attention to the most vulnerable. Maybe we could take the recommendation out if we can ensure advocacy for high risk individuals in other parts of the recommendation. Rework it in the subcommittee.

Ms. Lis said this will go back to the prevention subcommittee and come back for rewrite.

#2 Mr. Mercado said we already have approval to purchase the boxes and are figuring out which parks they are going in. This could be a nudge.

Ms. Cirrolla said reword it to support it rather than start it.

Dr. Brown said replace fund with support.

Ms. Diaz said we are also trying to educate the at large community on why this is important. Could we use this platform to do education.

Chair Kaltenbach said we are talking about how to categorize these recommendations. She, Kyra and Julie talked about that and showing Board support for ideas that the City is doing.

Dr. DeBernardi said his concern is specific to the boxes, specifically in the park. They have to be hyper secure.

Mr. Mercado said DOH has one in their foray. We are looking at that vendor and the one that makes bear proof trash cans. Albuquerque has 11 of these. They are working well, but it is controversial.

Ms. Andar said that is fantastic progress, but it does strike her as a very small amount. 11 across the City. Is there a way we can find out more about the overall budget and the goals of the project.

Mr. Mercado said it is a one time expenditure of pouring the pad and buying the box. Then there is a service fee for each box regularly with an ongoing cost of maintenance. That ongoing cost is the main limiting factor.

Ms. Ochoa said staff can look into the budgets for Departments for this and get back to the task force.

Ms. Lis said Kyra will follow up.

#9 City alcohol tax increase.

Mr. Martinez said Bernie is not here so he is going to speak on his behalf. Bernie sees this as a regressive tax for poor people. He personally supports any tax that discourages young people from access to alcohol and cigarettes. It does have an impact of reducing consumption.

Chair Kaltenbach said she heard on the news this morning that New Mexico alcohol deaths have gone up. They talked about this as a public health issue. Alaska instituted an alcohol tax and deaths went down.

Ms. O'Connor said a dime a drink was the tag line. The money was reinvested.

Mr. Martinez said the alcohol business is the biggest, most well funded lobbying group at the Legislature.

Ms. Ochoa said of all the recommendations she thinks this is the most radical. If you want to be radical go after the alcohol industry.

Ms. Andar said she agrees with her. Another radical and effective strategy is to effect bottom lines. That is how political change happens effecting economics.

Mr. Mercado said we filed in State court on opiate legislation hoping to get tied into the Federal litigation.

Ms. O'Connor said generally it is the State that taxes alcohol.

Councilor Harris said to Kyra's point, in the current City Council this is not that radical of a proposal. We have a lot of discussions about alcohol consumption on City property. We do not have the authority to put in place a tax on alcohol. We find ourselves at odds with the Liquor Control Board frequently. It would be a sympatric conversation right now, but would not go anywhere in terms of City ability. We could

advocate certainly and he thinks that is appropriate.

Mr. Martinez said dealing with the liquor lobby is very difficult.

Ms. Lis said so change the language to advocate for an increase at a State level and access to funds.

Ms. Diaz said it would be interesting to know how that money is allocated at a State level. Do we want to advocate for how those funds are allocated.

Chair Kaltenbach said she is happy to take that on and will bring that information back to the group.

Mr. Martinez said he is interested in knowing more about the comment on #17. It is about a Restorative Justice Working Group.

Ms. Diaz said this speaks to a lot of concerns City staff might have. In the implementation phase we can think through how to not add to City staff work by looking for committees that already exist that could maybe take it on.

Ms. Ochoa said you are hoping to inspire action with these recommendations so the way you frame it is really important. Some of these wonderful things are on the way in the City now and we want to keep them up. She feels this recommendation list should be more compact. There are 40 things here that are not core things. We want to go and do it.

Ms. Barela said she echos those comments. She feels like we are still working with too much. When there is too much the importance gets lost and the focus gets lost. The core importance. These belong in buckets of importance. She still sees redundancy. She thinks it is important for us to bucket these into core pieces that are important to us. We may have subsets. Advocacy/ City advocacy is a bucket. Before we finalize this we have got to figure out how to make the key points stand out and get the recommendations around that.

Chair Kaltenbach said you also need to be specific. If it is a general recommendation it does not mean anything. What you are seeing are the specific things. At the next meeting we will talk about that. We do, at some point, need to get specific about our recommendations for the Governing Body. Tangible things. We don't want to lose any specificity.

Ms. Diaz said you will be putting the report together. Make sure all the recommendations are included as an appendix. You are tasked with buckets for the report.

Chair Kaltenbach said right. We did not put the recommendations in categories

due to duplication and so we could discuss them. Having this conversation is helpful for us.

Ms. Lis said we will get there.

Chair Kaltenbach said we will continue to discuss them at the next meeting on October 24th.

Ms. Kaltenbach said thank you all for being here and giving ideas.

B. REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations with revisions will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None


7. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Emily Kaltenbach, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer