

COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 76

MAYOR HOLNESS: Delegation request from the National Alliance of Mental Illness.

Are you still on the line?

MS. CUMPER: I am -- I am on the line. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners. Thank you for this opportunity. Sandra Cumper, Executive Director of NAMI Broward County.

MAYOR HOLNESS: All right. Go ahead, please.

And -- and I understand there's two of you that will be speaking?

MS. CUMPER: Yes, there is Judge Ari Porth after me.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Okay. Judge Ari Porth. Okay. Go ahead, please.

MS. CUMPER: Okay. Thank you again.

Today we ask for your support of the restarting of the Stepping Up Initiative in Broward County.

As we move to improve mental health treatment and reduce the number of mentally ill people in jails, Broward NAMI can and will initiate the link between the behavioral health community and criminal justice leaders in our community.

We need leadership from (inaudible) to help provide coordination (inaudible) various stages is involved.

We have also determined that for the program to succeed, we will need to hire a program coordinator to propel and oversee the project.

To fund this position, we will be looking at funding options from various sources. However, we're also asking for the County's support in funding this endeavor.

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And estimated 2,000,000 people with serious mental illness, almost three-quarters with substance abuse disorders, are booked into our local jails each year. Once incarcerated, individuals with mental illness tend to stay longer in jail, and upon release, are at the higher risk of recidivism than those without these illnesses.

To decrease the number of people with mental illness in our jails and reduce -- reduce the time they stay in jail, NAMI advocacy group has formed a subcommittee (inaudible) the Stepping Up Initiative. (Inaudible), a sequential intercept model was presented by (inaudible).

(Inaudible) to the sequential intercept mapping, community resources at each intercept point were identified, as were gaps in services.

As a result, a resolution was adopted unanimously by the Broward County Commission on May 19th to launch the initiative.

Stepping Up provides counties with the necessary tools to develop data-driven strategies that can lead to measurable reduction in the number of mentally ill people in jails.

To date, approximately 500 counties have passed a resolution or proclamation to participate in the initiative.

Collaboration between criminal justice, behavioral health entities, and our multiple local stakeholders is the key to the success of the Stepping Up Initiative.

Therefore, in preparation, we have reached out to several key stakeholders to partner with us and get their buy-in. Our collaborative efforts have received positive feedback from lead representatives from BSO, the Public Defender and State Attorney's Office, Broward Behavioral Health (Inaudible), the (inaudible), and others.

And today, we have Judge Ari Abraham Port of Broward 17th Judicial Circuit Mental Health and Drug Court, with whom we have had many discussions on how the Stepping Up Initiative can help Broward County.

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We're incredibly pleased to receive his guidance and to have him here today to speak with you.

Again, thank you, and we ask that the Stepping Up Initiative be supported by County leadership on an ongoing basis.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor --

MAYOR HOLNESS: Okay. Good. Judge Porth --

MS. CUMPER: -- and Commissioners.

MAYOR HOLNESS: -- Judge Porth, go -- Judge Ari Porth, go ahead, please.

JUDGE PORTH: Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners.

In late April of 2015, community leaders from Broward convened what was called the sequential mapping exercise that you heard Sandra mention. 38 stakeholders participated in an exchange where they shared their frustrations, their suggestions, and hopes on how we can improve our delivery of services to those suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders in the criminal justice system.

That exercise was credited with highlighting the importance of crisis intervention team training, or CIT, that many law enforcement officers in Broward have gone through.

A CIT trained officer, as many of you know, has learned better ways to improve an outcome, reducing arrests, and getting those that need it services.

Additionally, that exercise brought about the Felony Mental Health Diversion Program housed at Broward Regional Health Planning Council, where a person with mental illness can be diverted from court into treatment and ultimately, upon the successful completion of diversion, have their case dismissed.

More is needed, though, to reduce the number of chronically mentally ill from custody, to help ensure that they have a safe -- a safe and stable place to live, and that the limited resources are available -- that are available are spent in the

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right way.

To that end, the National Alliance on Mental Illness has created the Stepping Up Initiative to better link people to treatment and services while not compromising public safety.

I come here today with Sandra from NAMI on behalf of the 17th Circuit and with regards from our Chief Judge, Jack Tuter.

I would ask this Commission to renew their support as they did in 2015 at the behest of then-Commissioner Lois Wexler to, one, support a resolution to participate in the Stepping Up Initiative, and, in doing so, I would ask that the County participate in a soon-to-be-set mapping exercise where we'll measure the County's temperature, we'll get an idea of what's important, what are our priorities now on a mental health delivery system for those involved in criminal justice.

And, lastly, I would ask you to join us on a date to be set in May, Mental Health Awareness Month, for a public signing ceremony of a Memo of Understanding between all of the interested stakeholders, between the Sheriff and the State Attorney and the Public Defender and Mayor and members of the Commission, so that we will be committing to the policies that we are recommending, steps that we endeavor to complete.

Thank you.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Thank you very much, Judge Porth.

What -- what we'll do is we'll work with you. I -- I -- I promise you that I'll work with you to bring something forward. And I hear no objection from my colleagues.

We look forward to working with you.

So, it's a very important issue, and thank you for taking the time to be here. You've covered a bit.

We have a -- a very long schedule, and we're behind a bit.

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So, again, thank you for taking the time, thank you for being patient. And we'll work together --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MAYOR HOLNESS: -- to -- to do something here to help those who are mentally ill in our society.

VICE-MAYOR GELLER: And, Mr. Mayor, I just want to say hi to my old friend Ari.

MAYOR HOLNESS: You guys served together, correct?

JUDGE PORTH: Hi, Vice Mayor.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Okay.

JUDGE PORTH: I -- I very much like the beard. It looks excellent.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Okay.

(Laughter.)

VICE-MAYOR GELLER: Thank you.

MAYOR HOLNESS: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MAYOR HOLNESS: Commissioner Furr.

COMMISSIONER FURR: I just want to congratulate them. They just recently got an extension from the state to allow for the -- what was the old state mental health facilities in Pembroke Pines --

MAYOR HOLNESS: Right.

COMMISSIONER FURR: -- they got an extension to be able to build affordable housing there for those that need it.

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MAYOR HOLNESS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FURR: So, it opens up a place --

MAYOR HOLNESS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FURR: -- where affordable housing could go for those who need it --

MAYOR HOLNESS: Right.

COMMISSIONER FURR: -- with an extended lease there.

So, they did a great job of being able to make that happen.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FURR: And -- and hopefully we can work with them on that.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Yeah, we look forward to -- to that, putting that in a resolution how we can collaborate with them going forward.

I thank you both.

COMMISSIONER RICH: Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR HOLNESS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RICH: Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR HOLNESS: Senator Rich.

COMMISSIONER RICH: I -- yeah, I just would like to say that I, too, congratulate NAMI. We all worked together, the Behavioral Health Coalition, many groups, worked to urge the cabinet, who had to approve the extension of the lease, to do that. And we didn't have a cabinet meeting for a very long time, state cabinet meeting, so, we had to kind of wait.

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We knew we kind of -- we had the votes, but just want to congratulate them because this is going to be an excellent --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

COMMISSIONER RICH: -- opportunity for affordable housing for people with, you know, mental health issues.

MS. CUMPER: Thank you so much (inaudible) Rich. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Thanks to -- to both of you --

JUDGE PORTH: Thank you all for your time and attention.

MAYOR HOLNESS: -- thank you very much for your --

JUDGE PORTH: Appreciate everything you're doing.

MAYOR HOLNESS: Yeah. Thank you both --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MAYOR HOLNESS: -- thanks to both of you for taking the time out and for your leadership role that you're playing to help build our community and strengthen our community.

PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA ITEM 75

MAYOR HOLNESS: We're going to now to back to our -- our Public Hearing.

Agenda Item 75 is where we are. Item 75 is a motion to adopt resolution to transmit a proposed amendment to the Broward County Land Use Plan PC20-2 in the City of Tamarac as an amendment to the Broward County Comprehensive Plan to designated state review agency -- agencies pursuant to

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