



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022

TO: City Council

FROM: POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH JUSTICE INTERVENTION SERVICES (BHJIS) PROJECT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$481,327 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAUMA INFORMED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Accept and appropriate a Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services Grant in the amount of \$481,327 to support collaborative planning, capacity building, strategic program development and first year implementation of the Trauma Informed Multi-Disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team for the period of February 15, 2022 through February 14, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution accepting the Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services grant in the amount of \$481,327 for the period of February 15, 2022 through February 14, 2023 to support collaborative planning, capacity building, strategic program development and first-year implementation of the Trauma Informed Multi-Disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team; and authorizing and directing the City Manager or designee to execute any necessary documents; and appropriating such funds to the special grants budget; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving a Contract for Consultant Services between the City of Watsonville and Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 for the period of February 15, 2022 through February 14, 2023 to support collaborative planning, capacity building, strategic program development and first-year implementation of the Trauma Informed Multi-Disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team; and authorizing and directing the City Manager or designee to execute any necessary documents; and
- 3) Adopt a Resolution approving a Contract for Consultant Services between the City of Watsonville and Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Program in the amount of \$160,327 for the period of February 15, 2022 through February 14, 2023 to support collaborative planning, capacity building, strategic program development and first-year implementation of the Trauma Informed Multi-Disciplinary Critical Incident

Response Team; and authorizing and directing the City Manager or designee to execute any necessary documents.

DISCUSSION:

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) contracted with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), as the Administrative Entity to assist DHCS in overseeing and implementing the Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services (BHJIS) Project. Funding to support BHJIS was awarded to DHCS by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). DHCS allocated \$16.25 million of SAMHSA funds for BHJIS to support local and statewide efforts to improve first responder, law enforcement, and other community efforts to address behavioral health crises. This funding is intended to address critical intervention points through which individuals with mental and substance use disorders can be diverted from criminal justice involvement. A request for application for the BHJIS project was released and due on December 22, 2021. The City of Watsonville applied and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$481,327 for the period of February 15, 2022 through February 14, 2023 to support collaborative planning, capacity building, strategic program development and first-year implementation of the Trauma Informed Multidisciplinary Critical Incident Response Team (MDT).

The grant proposal submitted builds upon a recently concluded, community informed process, led by the City of Watsonville. The nearly year-long, in depth engagement involved City staff, community partners and other government entities exploring how to transform the city's policing into a trauma-informed, community-centered, and restorative model that requires a multidisciplinary approach. The public health model included the participation and collaboration from diverse sectors including health, education, social services, justice and the community at large. In order to meet the task of reducing violence within the City of Watsonville, the collaborators agree to work in partnership to establish a Trauma Informed Multi-Disciplinary Critical Incident Response Team (MDT) that responds to incidents as identified by the Watsonville Police Department. The City recognizes that the response to these traumatic incidents requires a holistic approach that can only be accomplished through collaboration. The purpose of the MDT is to assess and address trauma and provide linkages to services as needed to those individuals impacted.

This community informed process aims to improve community safety and wellness with the creation of a multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed, co-response team and system. When community substance abuse/mental health crises occur, the co-response system will be holistic, public health-centered, prevention/treatment-focused, socially and racially equitable, trauma informed, coordinated, comprehensive and culturally responsive (rather than producing additional trauma and an entry into the criminal justice system). Some of the goals include the following:

- Development of trusting relationships with system partners, specifically law enforcement;
- Access to care, with services at the right time, in the right environment, diverted away from the criminal justice system;

- Shared vision, values, roles, leadership, governance, direction through collaborative planning;
- Engagement in whole systems capacity building; and,
- Implementation of the Trauma Informed Multidisciplinary Critical Incident Team (MDT)

As part of the collaborative planning, the implementation of direct services will emerge. These direct services will be provided by the community partners supporting the MDT, which include the City of Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, Superintendent of Schools, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB), Monarch Services, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Program (PVPSA), Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), County of Education and Applied Survey Research (ASR) among others. The BHJIS grant funds will be funding the direct services provided by some of the community partners, such as PVPSA, CAB, Monarch Services and ASR which will require a contract for services; City Council approval will be needed for PVPSA (\$150,000) and CAB (\$160,327) contracts given the amounts are over \$100,000. Through increased collaboration, leveraging and evolution of existing community response models, the MDT intends to stop trauma and provide services that best meet individual and community needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The BHJIS grant supports the Council's priorities and objectives of:
5-Community Engagement & Well-Being – Strengthen Community Partnerships
6-Public Safety – Community Policing

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services does not require local match funds and has no financial impact to the General Fund.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council could elect to not accept this grant but this would require the City to utilize other funding sources, such as the general fund, to implement the Trauma Informed Multidisciplinary Critical Incident Team.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.