

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL, OTHER DRUGS & YOUTH SERVICES

June 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Thomas, Barry, Vincent, Kantor

Absent: Alderman O'Neil

Messrs.: O. Westover, J. King

1. Demographic and Services Report of the 39 Beech Street Shelter and Engagement Center.

(Note: Provided for informational purposes only; no action is required.)

Alderman Vincent asked is Owen going to answer questions. On the spreadsheet, the percentage increase month-to-month, what exactly is that based on? For example, it says from February until March there was an 11.67% decrease in participant engagement. Can you explain what that means?

Owen Westover, Project Assistant, answered the percentages that you see at the top of that chart on the second page, those are reflecting those numbers over those months. So it is the number of participants that have been engaged with those service providers. It is the number of touch points between the service providers that are there and the clients that are there.

Alderman Vincent asked when you say there was a 50.94% increase from March until April, when I look at that I see 50.94% but I see there was a decrease of 11.67% so is that 50.94% based on the decreased number? In other words, if I went from 10 to 5 the month before but I went from 5 to 15, is that the number you are calculating? How are you coming to these numbers? That is what I am trying to get that.

Mr. Westover stated so going from the 11% decrease and the 50% increase we are factoring in that 11%.

Alderman Vincent stated so it is a 50% increase based on...so we are already in the hole 12%. It is really 30%. It is not really 50.94% then.

Mr. Westover responded no. I was pulling the numbers between each month for the last three months because I wanted to give you the most accurate reflection of the most recent changes.

Alderman Vincent stated so the best number I see here would be April to May at 51% which would probably be a better number to gauge off of because with the other two you had the decrease. Now on the sheet under organization, you listed all of the organizations. For example, with Manchester Mental Health there were 24 participants

in February, 26 in March, 32 in April and 34 in May. Each month it went up. How many of those would you say are repeats or somebody that is continuously getting care over these months? Are they included in this or are there 24 individuals in February and then in March you had 26 different individuals or in that 26 are there some of those 24? Do you see what I am saying? I am trying to paint a picture of an accurate depiction of separate individuals versus the same person getting care. That is what it is but if you say the four of us get care for four months, that is four people. Is it possible to break that number down?

Mr. Westover answered it would be possible to break out that number potentially in the future. As of right now, the system only collects that data. People come up to us and self-report.

Alderman Vincent asked so it is touches and it doesn't matter if it is the same person.

Mr. Westover replied yes. We don't have any breakdowns based on unique individuals.

Jake King stated unless you guys ask us to change the system, it is going to be really hard to figure out how many individual people are getting treated because the providers do not always need names. I don't know if we could do an accurate count of how many individuals are treated unless all of the providers got waivers from all of the people they work with. HIPAA and a lot of other things prevent them from even telling us who they saw.

Alderman Vincent stated I am trying to make it as transparent as I can.

Chairman Thomas stated what I wanted to say is myself and Alderman Barry were asking Owen and Jake to kind of put this together for this meeting quickly. We wanted the aldermen to get a feel of what was going on now and how it is really progressing nicely. That is why some of the numbers might be jumbled. Owen and Jake are going to work on that for a future meeting. We wanted them to have something to work off of because we weren't getting that before and aldermen were really searching for that.

Alderman Vincent replied I totally agree with that. I was just looking at these numbers...I am not trying to set you guys up, I am just trying to get transparency. I looked at the area chart and I am totally confused by that pile of sand looking chart you have there. You say number of participants 120 and I was trying to figure this out and bounce it off your little gauge here and it just...numbers will never lie. That's all. Thank you Owen and Jake.

Alderman Barry stated thank you Jake and Owen for coming and it was nice to meet with you a few weeks ago. Not the percentage increases or decreases, but one of the things I am really interested in is the second portion where you have the organizations listed that are showing up on a monthly basis. There are a few that stand out to me. One is Manchester Mental Health. It is pretty steady. In February there were 24, March 26, April 32 and May 34. CMC Street Medicine stood out. In February it was six and then three and then four and now eleven. It is obviously increasing and that is what we want. The City of Manchester Welfare in February and March only had two then in April and May they had 18 and 16. The same thing with Manchester Housing. There was

one in March and none in April and 15 in May. It is important to us as a committee and important to us as a city that we know exactly which organizations are going in there. Another one that stands out is 603 Legal Aid. They had zero all the way through until May and then they had ten. That is what we want. We want to know what organizations are going in there and what ones are working out to our benefit and if there is anything the city can do to assist whether it be not just funding but is there an organization that we need to reach out to. I think in the future presentations...I am not a big person on trying to look at pie charts and stuff like that but I would rather see exactly what you guys did and I really appreciate it. The total number served for February through May is huge. Now we know which organizations are going there and which organizations the residents are looking for assistance from so we know that those are the ones we need to keep in there. Thank you.

Chairman Thomas stated I also agree that it is perfect the way it is laid out for us. I definitely agree that that is what we have been wanting to see. I do like to see that the numbers from April and May have increased. That is great. Do you have any idea why? Is it because of the resource fair that you guys are having all the time and things like that? What are some other things that you think are getting folks in there?

Mr. King answered I do think the resource fair has been such a focus and Andrew and Owen have done a great job on it. I think that has been a big factor. I also think that with this population it takes a lot of time. People can be in there for a few months before somebody will go and engage because they want to know that it is a trusted source and they want to know that it is not going to be big brother screwing them because that is how they think. The fact that it has been going on for a while and the fact that it has had a refocus and just based on my experience in this field, people start to come out more when the weather is warm. You would think it would be the opposite and people would come out more when it is cold but that is when you don't see a lot of people except for your regulars. When it starts to get warmer, they start to move around more and they start to go more places. I think the seasonal depression is out of the way and they are coming out and engaging. I think it is a mix of those factors.

Chairman Thomas stated thank you for coming today and for all of the work you guys are doing.

Mr. King asked can I say one last thing. When you guys asked what we need, obviously funding and all of that stuff but if we can have really clear and open communication...if you think we need to present something differently, just be patient and give us time to figure out how to do it and we will get you that information. Thank you.

Chairman Thomas stated Alderman Barry and I definitely got that feeling the last time we were at the shelter so good job.

2. Amendment to the lease agreement between 39 Beech St LLC and the City of Manchester for use of the building located at 39 Beech Street.

Alderman Barry moved to approve.

Alderman Vincent stated I want to make a comment and make sure I understand this. So we are going to extend this until November 30 but do we have a plan after that? Are we putting a Band-Aid on a bullet wound? What are we doing for five months?

Alderman Barry responded my understanding in speaking with the Mayor and what he has said publically is he is working on getting a non-profit to hopefully take over. I know we are in the process of getting a new hire for the position.

Alderman Vincent asked is there a chance that the non-profit could take over before the end of November or are we just hoping it will be done by that time.

Alderman Barry answered I think we are going to continue it through November. This is a lease and we are going to have to abide by the lease. I think the Mayor is pretty confident that he is going to be able to get a non-profit in there. I hope so because obviously in the end of November it is going to start getting cold out and that is when we are going to need the shelter space.

Alderman Vincent stated I just wanted to make sure because in this new agreement we have to pay three months in advance and that is \$81,000 at \$27,000 a month for this building. That is a lot of money for a building. As long as we have a plan, I think the people are good with that. It is \$81,000 for three months and I just want to make sure that there is a goal.

Alderman Kantor duly seconded the motion. Chairman Thomas called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

3. Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between East Coast Evolution Leadership, LLC and the City of Manchester for Management, Staffing and Operation of the Shelter and Engagement Center at 39 Beech Street.
(Note: Initial contract and MOU are attached for reference.)

Alderman Vincent stated under compensation, it is increasing by like \$1,200 a month. Do we have a breakdown of what that compensation is per month? The only reason I ask is because it is \$72,000/month. Do we have a breakdown of what that is? What is that \$72,000 going towards? Is it X amount towards salaries...what is included? Just so you know, the reason I ask is because when you increase compensation there is obviously a reason. That is what prompted me to think well what is the breakdown as it is now and what is the reason for the increase? Is it COLA or what is the reason?

Mr. King answered it is basically cost of living and inflation. Every ounce of the adjustment, which like you said is only \$1,200/month is going to raises for my staff.

Alderman Vincent asked okay so it is for the staff. Is it possible that you could get us a breakdown of what that compensation is monthly?

Mr. King replied I can talk to my lawyers. Since we are a for profit and not a non-profit, my lawyers have said that we shouldn't really provide that without some kind of back and forth and reason because it is part of our...I forget the term she used. I don't mind providing it.

Alderman Vincent asked well who pays the \$72,000.

Mr. King answered the city. For clarification, I am not arguing with you.

Alderman Vincent responded I am not thinking that. I just want to see what portion is salary and what portion is...

Mr. King interjected we are contractors and that would be akin to me telling my staff that they have to tell me what they spend their money on and they don't. I get what you are saying and I can get you a breakdown.

Alderman Vincent replied I don't need the nickels and dimes.

Mr. King stated I would say about 80% of what we get goes directly to staff.

Alderman Vincent stated whatever you could get me would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. King stated I like to listen to my legal counsel so I am trying to make sure I don't stick my foot into it right now.

Alderman Barry asked do you feel comfortable approving this Alderman Vincent or do you want to table it.

Chairman Thomas asked if we table it, what will happen.

Mr. King answered if you table it, legally we don't have to provide those services and our staff wouldn't work at the shelter. This happened before.

Alderman Barry asked you contract runs out at the end of this month right.

Mr. King answered I believe so. You guys tabled payment a few months ago and we kept working. If you guys really feel the need to table it for discussion we would probably keep working.

Alderman Vincent interjected no I don't.

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to approve.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee