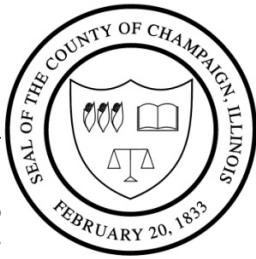


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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

MINUTES – Subject to Approval

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

Committee Members:

| Present | Absent |
|-------------------|--------|
| Samantha Carter | |
| Aaron Esry | |
| Stephanie Fortado | |
| Jenny Lokshin | |
| Jim McGuire | |
| Diane Michaels | |
| Kyle Patterson | |

County Staff: Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. May 17, 2022

MOTION by Ms. Lokshin to approve the minutes of May 17, 2022; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

41 **V. Public Participation**

42
43 None

44
45 **VI. Communications**

46
47 Ms. Lokshin acknowledged the death of 18-year-old Prentiss Jackson this week in Champaign. She urged
48 the Committee to do everything they can to prevent this type of violence.
49

50 **VII. Presentations**

51 A. Tim Bartlett, Urbana Park District

52
53 Tim Bartlett, Urbana Park District Executive Director, introduced their plan for a health and wellness
54 center and their request for \$2.5 million from the ARPA funds. Mr. Bartlett explained this center would
55 help address reaching underrepresented groups and will be located in a “hot spot”. He gave an overview
56 of their current funding, the current floorplans and the possible floorplan if this funding is received.
57

58 Corky Emberson, Urbana Park District Recreation Superintendent, gave an overview of what the Park
59 District does from an outreach perspective, how the health and wellness center will help prevent
60 community violence and some of the programs they will be providing. He explained details of their
61 scholarships and free amenities. He also spoke about the partnerships they have with others in the
62 community to coordinate programming together. They would like to break ground this fall with an
63 anticipated opening date in October 2023.
64

65 Mr. McGuire asked what would happen with their lease at the Brookens Center and how they are doing
66 with staffing now and how this building will impact their staffing. Mr. Bartlett explained they would like
67 to keep their lease arrangement for the soccer fields outside, but they would plan to move out of the
68 Brookens gym around the same time as the County moves to the Plaza. Mr. Emberson explained their
69 current staff would be working out of this new facility, but they would need to hire some part-time staff.
70

71 Ms. Michaels asked how they would include the outlying communities in this center since this is county-
72 wide funding. Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Emberson explained they are working to find ways to include the
73 outside communities while still working around their geo-political boundary requirements.
74

75 Ms. Carter expressed her support for their affordable options and partnerships with other community
76 programs. She also asked if there was an age limit to their programs and it was explained that they will
77 have programs for all ages. Finally, she suggested they partner with the MTD to help people with
78 transportation to their center. Mr. Bartlett added that they did many studies to find a good location for
79 this center that would serve a part of the community that does not have any facilities and would be
80 within walking distance for many.
81

82 Ms. Fortado asked if they have requested ARPA funds from the City of Urbana. Mr. Bartlett said they are
83 also asking the city, but they cannot wait for the city to make a decision. If they received money from
84 both the County and the City, they would use the additional funds for other parts of the project like their
85 outdoor facilities which are in the next phase of their plans. Mr. Esry asked if they only received partial
86 funding would they be able to build part of the plans and finish later. Mr. Emberson explained their
87 alternate options and how they would choose according to the funding that is received.

88 B. Banio Koroma Jr., Manhood Training Camp

89
90 Mr. Koroma, a local mentor and youth advocate, came on behalf of A Vision to Succeed, a cultural and
91 social organization that is working to change the social norm and culture of violence in the community.
92 He explained how they are working to counter the culturally toxic masculinity young men are learning by
93 teaching them ethics and honorable ways to earn money. He gave details of his programs and how they
94 plan to expand over time. Their ultimate goal is to train these young men to be junior mentors so they
95 can impact their peer groups. Studies show that impacting 25% of the population can change the culture
96 and that similar programs have reduced gun violence by 35%. He is requesting \$44,337 for the first year
97 of programming.

98
99 Ms. Carter asked if there are any fee waivers or scholarships for their programs and how often they
100 meet. Mr. Koroma explained that they do have several different opportunities for their program fees to
101 be covered and that they meet once a month but plan to meet weekly once school begins. Ms. Michaels
102 asked how the ARPA funding would be used. Mr. Koroma stated he has an official request with a budget
103 that he would like to share with everyone.

104
105 C. Tracy Dace, DREAAM House

106
107 Tracy Dace, Founder and CEO of DREAAM, gave some background on the DREAAM program, the ages
108 they support, their current programs and future goals. He explained their three strategies: Wellness for
109 All, Hope for Boys and Black Family Wellness; for their Hope for the Future initiative. This will be a two-
110 year pilot initiative to impact over 1000 families with wellness programs to develop a pathway to
111 violence prevention. He is requesting \$500,000 of ARPA funds to create an early childhood village and
112 building out the Hope for the Future initiative in Rantoul and Urbana.

113
114 Mr. Dace explained the concept of the early childhood village more in-depth, stating they would have a
115 central village location with separate satellite locations throughout the county. Ms. Michaels asked if
116 this would be like Head Start or in partnership with Head Start. Mr. Dace explained that they do
117 currently partner with Head Start and his vision is to start this as a partner with Head Start and then
118 move it into more of a community-based facility.

119
120 Mr. McGuire listed some of the County's current programs: Head Start and the Youth Assessment
121 Center; and questioned why the County should fund duplicate services. Mr. Dace explained that it is vital
122 to duplicate services as there aren't currently enough services for the need in the community and the
123 community needs different options to choose from. He stated that the Youth Assessment Center has
124 had to refer youth to his program for services. In 2015 his program started with 10 boys, and they will be
125 serving 500 youth this summer.

126
127 **VIII. Other Business**

128 A. Discussion of funding plans and next steps

129 B. Next meeting date and time

130
131 Mr. Patterson proposed for the Committee to meet in July to have a more focused discussion on funding
132 plans and to make a recommendation to the County Board. The next meeting will be held on July 12th at
133 6:00 p.m.

134

135 Discussion continued about the current funding appropriation of \$1.4 million for this fiscal year and the
136 Democratic Caucus' intention to appropriate \$2.6 million from the second disbursement of ARPA funds.
137 Mr. McGuire mentioned the funding some of these groups have already received and would like to
138 subtract that amount from their current requests in order to support all of the programs appropriately.
139

139

140 **IX. Adjournment**

141

142 Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.