



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Fire

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Frank Dixon, Assistant City Manager

DATE: August 16, 2022

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton approving a service agreement between the City of Denton, by and through its Fire Department, and Recovery Resource Council (RRC), a 501(C)(3) charitable organization, providing for an Overdose Response Team (ORT); and declaring an effective date.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department wishes to enter into a Service Agreement with the Recovery Resource Council (RRC), which is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to promote wellness and recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders and trauma. To accomplish that mission, RRC created an Overdose Response Team (ORT) which is a partnership between RRC and EMS providers such as the Denton Fire Department. The ORT includes a Paramedic from the EMS provider. The program is currently serving Tarrant County and RRC is actively working on expanding the program to other near-by counties. The ORT conducts follow up visits with individuals who are struggling with substance use disorder and have recently experienced an overdose. During these visits, clients and their households are given the opportunity to meet with a Peer Support Specialist or a Licensed Master Social Worker, receive and be trained on how to use Narcan, how to perform basic CPR, and ultimately discuss treatment and recovery options, including a network of services and resources available that care about them and want to support them through their fight against addiction, if and when they are ready. The goal of the program is to connect with individuals and meet them where they are in their substance use disorder. The long-term goal of the program is to decrease the number of overdoses and overdose deaths and increase the number of individuals seeking treatment and entering recovery.

The Fire Department's role in this partnership is to identify individuals in our community who are in critical need of resources related to addiction and substance use. The Fire Department will generate leads for the ORT by pulling patient information from its databases using specified criteria that indicates the individual may benefit from being connected with this program. The sharing of this information is allowed by HIPAA through the execution of a Business Affiliate Agreement between the City and RRC. The Fire Department will facilitate a home-visit with these individuals, during which they will offer wellness checks and hands-only CPR training. The Fire Department will also explain the additional services available to them through the ORT partnership program. If the individual is interested, the Fire Department will facilitate a warm hand off to RRC staff. In operating this way, the ORT is able to serve as a comprehensive response that includes both medical and behavioral health support. Without the Fire Department's participation, RRC's ORT would not be able to gain access to the contact information of these individuals and therefore would not have an opportunity to connect with them. Having the Fire Department as a partner in this program

gives RRC the ability to reach clients that otherwise may never have the opportunity to be connected to life-saving resources like Narcan, and life-changing pathways to treatment.

The Fire Department will provide a uniformed Paramedic as a member of the ORT. Participation will be strictly voluntary. The Paramedic will accompany the Peer Support Specialist or a Licensed Master Social Worker on home-visits, which are going to be scheduled between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 pm. Staffing permitted, the Paramedic may be on-duty, but if staffing does not allow, a Paramedic will be allowed to participate off-duty. The City will pay the Paramedic their salary for participation on the ORT but will be reimbursed for 100% of that salary by RRC. RRC will also reimburse the City for the replacement cost of any supplies used during home visits. The Paramedic oversees the home visit and has the authority to cancel/terminate the visit if circumstances warrant doing so. This Agreement is for one year with an automatic yearly renewal for up to three (3) additional years.

Since the program launched in January 2022 in Tarrant County:

- 115 people have received at least one program service
- 82 have been connected to a peer support specialist
- 81 family members have received hands-on CPR training
- 80 patients received a health and wellness screening and were referred to other community resources
- Over 200 Narcan kits have been distributed
- Over 25 individuals have been connected to treatment-related follow up care

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: Agenda Information Sheet
Exhibit 2: Ordinance
Exhibit 3: Business Associates Agreement
Exhibit 4: Overdose Response Team Information

Respectfully submitted:
Kenneth Hedges
Fire Chief

Prepared by:
Lindsey Garrison
Fire Administration Manager