



City of San Marcos

City Council Work Session

October 4, 2021



Presentation Item 1

Receive a staff presentation and hold discussion on funding operational models related to residents at risk of becoming homeless or currently experiencing homelessness.



Background

- **\$400,000 of ARP funding recently allocated by Council for support of transitional housing**
- **Council approved Interlocal Agreement with Texas State University for comprehensive needs assessment**
- **What support models make sense for San Marcos?**



Framing the Question

- **A whole community problem that requires a whole community approach**
- **Evaluation of current City funding – related Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) funding (next slide) and other sources**
- **Consider how Austin changed their funding model to require collaboration among service agencies**



HSAB/Social Services Funding

- **Cenikor Foundation (substance abuse)**
- **Hands of Hope**
- **First Baptist Church – Mission Able**
- **Hays County Food Bank**
- **HOME Center**
- **Nosotros La Gente**
- **San Marcos Housing Authority**
- **Southside Community Center**
- **Scheib Opportunity Center**
- **Together for a Cause**



Data Sources

- **Local Homeless Coalition**
- **Upcoming needs assessment report**
- **Key staff – Library, Code, Police**



A Few Examples

- **Camp Esperanza**
- **Mandy Chapman Semple – Houston/Dallas**
- **Built for Zero**



Camp Esperanza

- Project of The Other Ones Foundation
- Began with paid services to clean abandoned campsite followed by a mobile hygiene clinic
- 7 acre TXDOT site allocated by the state for use
- Needs assessment
- Stable funding established through monthly magazine
- Combination of City funding, philanthropy from multiple foundations and orgs, and steady income from the magazine
- Now have computer lab, mail service, showers and laundry and 50 climate-controlled units combined with support network of services on site



Houston/Dallas Models

- **Common component is consultant Mandy Chapman Semple – special assistant to Houston Mayor**
 - Contributed to 60% reduction in homelessness in Houston
- **Now partnering with Dallas, Dallas County and several large NGOs (non-governmental orgs) to operationalize \$72m in funding.**
 - \$50 million of the funding provided by Dallas and Dallas Co, remainder by 8 major foundations
- **Housing first followed by support services**
- **Largest identified challenges were funding and housing stock**
 - Built and used relationships with apartment locators to cut down on bias some landlords may have toward houseless residents



Built for Zero

- **“Built for Zero is a movement of more than 80 cities and counties working to solve homelessness, one population at a time.”**
- **Goal is to achieve “Functional Zero” standard – 14 cities have succeeded including one in Texas – Abilene.**
 - Requires measurable and sustainable significant reduction in veteran and/or chronic homelessness. Evaluated annually.
 - Robust data collection is a prerequisite – creation of a “by name list.”
- **Involves fundamental shift in 5 areas:**
 - Who is at the table, how they define success, how the community understands the problem, how we spend our resources, and what do we believe is possible?
- **Utilizes an integrated, data-driven, community-level approach to address broken support systems and focus funding in the right areas**



Related Links

- [Camp Esperanza Story](#)
- [Mandy Chapman Semple Link](#)
- [Built for Zero](#)



Staff Recommendations

- **Develop high level vision for a draft model in partnership with the Local Homeless Coalition – bring back to Council for resolution of support**
- **Given the current circumstances found in our community, staff believes a model resembling the Built for Zero campaign could be successful in San Marcos.**
- **Consider waiting until after the needs assessment is complete before allocating the \$400k in funding**



Questions and Discussion