



City of Largo Agenda Item 3

Meeting Date
06/12/18

Presenter: **Matthew Anderson, Housing Manager**

Department: **CD – Community Development**

TITLE:

PROPOSED "ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES" PROGRAM

This City Commission Work Session item will provide the Largo City Commission background on how the proposed “Enriching Lives through Mental Health Services” (ELMS) Program was developed and why the proposed program is important to the City of Largo. If approved in the City of Largo’s FY 2019 budget and CDBG Action Plan, the program would be implemented as a cooperative initiative between the Largo Police Department, Largo Community Development Department and the non-profit agency Directions for Living. Representatives from both departments and from the partner agency will be present at the Work Session to answer questions.

The Largo Police Department has several initiatives and goals which are focused on targeting Police Department resources in an effective manner to enrich the lives of individuals and reduce repetitive calls for service. The simple intent is to deliver the services needed by individuals to effectively solve their problems and enrich their lives; while at the same time, reducing repetitive calls for service.

The proposed ELMS program would assign an officer from the Problem Oriented Policing Team and partner that officer with a Behavioral Health Navigator from Directions for Living to address mental illness in the community rather than having clients continue to cycle in and out of the criminal justice system. In a similar fashion to the Police Department’s elderly services officer, the officer/navigator team would pro-actively engage the “high utilizers” and connect them with services they may need, such as psychological testing, therapy, case management, and Social Security Disability Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) benefits.

The cost for the program involves funding a new Behavioral Health Navigator position through Directions for Living that would be specifically assigned to serve Largo.

(continued on Page 2)

Budgeted Amount:	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	Budget Page No(s):	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	Available Amount:	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	Expenditure Amount:	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
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Additional Budgetary Information:

Funding Source(s):	<input type="text" value="General Fund CDBG"/>	Sufficient Funds Available:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Budget Amendment Required:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Source:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
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City Attorney Reviewed:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A	Advisory Board Recommendation:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> For <input type="radio"/> Against <input type="radio"/> N/A	Consistent With:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A	<input type="text" value="CDBG"/>
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Potential Motion/ Direction Requested:

Staff Contact:	<input type="text" value="Matthew Anderson, Housing Manager"/>	<input type="text" value="727.586.7489"/>	<input type="text" value="maanders@largo.com"/>
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Attachments:

Background:

In July 2017, the Largo Leader ran an article that described Largo Police Department's new emphasis on addressing the growing mental health needs of the community, although funding was a barrier to implementing these initiatives. Concurrently, Largo's Housing Division staff was hearing more about the mental health issues facing the community as part of their public outreach during development of the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan. Together, the Police Department and the Housing Division staff from the Community Development Department discussed methods to partner resources and funding to develop a program to address community mental health needs.

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the FY 2018-2019 CDBG funding requested innovative applications to address the community's mental health needs as a means for stabilizing both residents and higher crime neighborhoods. One project fit well with the proposed purpose from both departments. Directions for Living proposed funding a new Behavioral Health Navigator for their agency that would be partnered full-time with a Largo Police Officer to stabilize the high risk/high police service utilizers (high utilizers) in Largo.

Directions for Living has been providing trauma-informed services in Pinellas and surrounding counties for 35 years. Trauma-informed services involve the recognition and response to all types of physical and mental trauma that clients may have suffered. The agency provides programs such as: Child Safety and Family Preservation (counseling and reuniting families displaced through the foster care system); Children's Behavioral Health Services; Adult Behavioral Health Services; Prevention, Wellness and Recovery Services, and case management for mid-county homeless street outreach. The agency currently has two full-time Behavioral Health Navigators funded through the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department. The proposed Behavioral Health Navigator for Largo would be a new position they would add in FY 2018-2019 similar to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department positions.

Mental Health Data:

Recognizing the increasing number of police calls for service that are related to mental health issues, the Police Department began tracking calls that were related to individuals with mental illness. In 2016, the Police Department responded to 2,240 calls for service involving individuals with mental health concerns (707 of these calls involved Baker Acts). In 2017, the Police Department responded to 2,314 calls for service involving individuals with mental health concerns (656 of these calls involved Baker Acts).

A recent report from collected data on 15 random individuals who routinely call the Police Department with mental health concerns revealed that these 15 individuals called the Police Department 731 times in 2017. These calls resulted in 303 calls for service being generated for police response.

Likewise, through the Housing Division's assessment of some of the neighborhoods indicated as increasing crime areas by the Community Development Advisory Board, staff found areas with high incidences of domestic violence and suicide-related police calls.

Additional Program Information:

It is anticipated that the ELMS team will maintain regular contact with the clients rather than waiting for a crisis to arise. However, the team will go through a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training and be able to assist in the de-escalation of mental health crises if they arise.

The Behavioral Health Navigator proposed by Directions for Living is a perfect partnership for the mental health liaison officer. Together the Police Department's mental health liaison officer and Directions' Behavioral Health Navigator will work toward partnering citizens with mental health illnesses with the resources needed to help them cope with everyday living.

The outcome of this partnership between the Largo Police Department and Directions for Living will help citizens with mental illness acquire the assistance they need and reduce repetitive calls for service received by the Police Department.

Funding:

Funding is proposed for a two-year period (conditional upon funding availability) to enable the agency to fill the position and for the team to become fully operational. After the two-year period, the performance of the program can be evaluated to determine whether future funding is warranted.

The proposed funding reflects a partnership between the City's Community Development Department and the Police Department to fund the ELMS Program.

The proposal in the draft CDBG Action Plan presented to the CDAB included funding for the Behavioral Health Navigator and use of a City laptop during the contract period, similar to the arrangement Directions for Living has with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

The original budget for the project included some match from Directions for Living toward their indirect costs of providing the new position. They have indicated that if part of the indirect costs can be instead billed to the project in the first year, that they can purchase the laptop for this position with their own funding. It is anticipated that the CDBG Program can cover this additional indirect cost, in accordance with allowable indirect cost rates under CDBG, without requiring additional outlay from the General Fund.

The proposed budget is shown below:

Items	Year 1	Year 2
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Personnel Costs	\$55,000	\$55,000
Indirect Costs	\$3,000	\$3,000
Laptop	\$1,650	\$0
Total Cost:	\$59,650	\$58,000
<i>Revenues:</i>		
CDBG	\$29,150	\$27,500
General Fund	\$27,500	\$27,500
Directions for Living	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total Revenues:	\$59,650	\$58,000