



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Guillermo Cespedes
Chief, Violence Prevention

SUBJECT: Update on Planning for MACRO

DATE: August 25, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Sep 1, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report That Provides An Update On Planning For Mobile Assistance Community Responders Of Oakland (MACRO) Pilot Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed pilot program, Mobile Assistance Crisis Responders of Oakland (MACRO) intends to provide a non-law enforcement response to non-violent/non-felony crises in two areas of Oakland. MACRO was modeled in part on *Crisis Response Healing Out on The Streets (CAHOOTS)*, developed in Eugene, Oregon and tailored to meet the needs of Oakland residents during a nine-month feasibility process that engaged community and government partners with relevant expertise.

The Department of Violence Prevention's (DVP) goal of supporting community safety and addressing community trauma through community-based alternatives aligns with the proposed model of crisis response for mental health. This report provides an update on early planning efforts by the DVP to support implementation of the MACRO pilot, including developing a funding solicitation for interested, community based organizations to respond to. The pilot will serve as a proof of concept, a platform in which to evaluate what aspects of the model require adaptation to the Oakland context and the resources needed to expand implementation.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Oakland voters have consistently identified public safety as a priority and first approved the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act in 2004 (Measure Y) and subsequently approved the 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act (Measure Z) to provide a dedicated funding stream for community policing and community-focused violence prevention and intervention strategies. Accordingly, the City Council sought to better align, amplify and elevate Oakland's violence prevention efforts for increased accountability and performance by establishing the Department of Violence Prevention to pursue a public health

approach to violence prevention. The City Council intends that the DVP will work with both victims of violent crime and those statistically most likely to become future victims or perpetrators of violent crime to dramatically reduce violent crime and to serve communities impacted by violence to end cycles of trauma (Resolution No. 13451 C.M.S.).

Due to City Council interest in police alternative response models to support Oakland residents in crisis, \$40,000 was allocated in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 budget to explore implementation of a model like Crisis Response Healing Out on The Streets (CAHOOTS), a program in place in Eugene, Oregon, that provides a non-law enforcement response to mental health crisis calls (Resolution No. 87759 C.M.S.). A feasibility study was released by Urban Strategies Council (USC) in Spring 2020 that examined the CAHOOTS model and surveyed existing programs and services in place to respond to mental health and other non-violent/non-felony crises. USC coordinated with experts in the field, both community organizations and government agencies, as well as community members who have experiences with existing crisis response services to propose Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO). The report provided a comprehensive analysis and recommended launching a pilot program in two Oakland areas at an estimated cost of \$3.09 million.

As part of the mid-cycle budget for FY 2019-21, City Council voted on June 23, 2020 to budget \$1.85 million for the Department of Violence Prevention to identify a qualified community-based organization(s) who will implement MACRO in several Oakland neighborhoods with an emphasis on neighborhoods in East and West Oakland in alignment with the neighborhoods identified by the DVP's place-based strategy (Amendment to Resolution No. 87759 C.M.S.).

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

MACRO: Immediate Response, Connections to Care and Follow-up

MACRO provides an opportunity to improve access to mental health services for non-violent/non-felony crisis response in Oakland. Drawing on lessons learned from the CAHOOTS model, established by the City of Eugene, MACRO provides a diversion model to reduce reliance on police and attendant jail and criminal justice responses by offering a public health response, which also reduces the burden on, and high costs of, the emergency medical care system.

Under the MACRO model, whenever possible, a team of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and counselors will respond to and provide medical assessment/clearance, de-escalation and support, and connection to care. Connections to care can be immediate, and provide a range of possible options beyond a 72-hour psychiatric assessment (or 5150 hold) including detox centers such as Cherry Hill, 23-hour crisis stabilization units and drop-in centers, longer term residential rehabilitation, primary care with a private medical provider, and even to a safe place determined by the person in crisis, such as their own home or that of a loved one. Transportation and follow up would be voluntary and next steps will be determined in consultation with the individual in crisis. The MACRO team will also provide follow-up support to connect to additional available resources including clinical care, medication access, and residential treatment or drop-in clinics.

By employing the EMT-Counselor team, MACRO provides an opportunity for hiring peer professionals as counselors trained to respond, de-escalate and support individuals in crisis. MACRO will emphasize training community members that have been at the center of violence either as victims or perpetrators as responders.

Coordination and Information Gathering

During July and August, in initial coordination and information gathering meetings, DVP staff engaged stakeholders key to developing a successful MACRO pilot including USC staff who developed the feasibility report, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services staff including the Crisis Services Director, Oakland Police Department leadership, and community partners.

These initial meetings have provided important context for MACRO implementation and laid the groundwork for future coordination. In particular, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services launched a similar model called Community Assessment and Transport Team (CATT) in July 2020, with teams of EMTs paired with licensed clinicians (LCSW and LMFT, etc.) ready to respond in Oakland, Hayward and San Leandro. For CATT, the addition of a clinician provides for mental health assessment, access to electronic medical records to review recent care/treatment for the individual, and the ability to leverage additional funds to sustain the program (i.e. MediCal billing). Coordination with existing efforts and county-funded continuum of care will strengthen the MACRO approach. Their recent planning effort will provide important insights for MACRO implementation; though the unique goals for MACRO to serve the Oakland community will require adaptation.

Development and Release of Funding Solicitation

A funding solicitation, either a Request for Proposals or Qualifications (RFP/Q) is currently being developed by DVP staff for release in Fall/Winter 2020. Staff anticipates a planning period to proceed implementation and is planning to engage a consultant with relevant expertise to aid in development of the funding solicitation as well as supporting development of the implementation and evaluation plans for the pilot.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

USC engaged in a nine-month process that engaged stakeholders and community members in research and design of the pilot proposed in the feasibility report. ***Community Agencies Convened by USC for Feasibility Report Include:*** Anti-Police Terror Project, Berkeley Mental Health Commission, Block by Block Organizing Network, Brotherhood of Elders, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency, Ceasefire, Coalition for Police Accountability, Copwatch, Department of Violence Prevention, Faith in Action, Family Violence Law Center, Frontline Healers, Homeless Advocacy Working Group, Homeless Action Center, Imani Church, Justice

Teams Network, Neighbors for Racial Justice, North Oakland Restorative Justice, Qal'Bu Maryam Mosque, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, Timelist, Youth Alive, among others.

In addition, DVP staff have coordinated with USC's MACRO project leads to determine next steps for implementation of the MACRO pilot.

COORDINATION

In addition to the community coordination detailed above, this informational report has been reviewed by the City Administrator's Office.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This is a new pilot initiative proposed for implementation in Oakland. There is no past performance to report. As noted above a consultant will be brought in to help set an evaluation plan during implementation planning for future evaluation of this pilot.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Diverting individuals in crisis from incarceration to short term crisis response clinics, outpatient mental health care and drug treatment has the potential to save dollars in medical care, police services, and incarceration costs, among other costs.

Environmental: By expanding social services to and improving community connections for those most impacted by violence and mental health crises, marginalized communities are made safer, healthier, and stronger. Safer neighborhood conditions contribute to the growth and revitalization of our Oakland communities, including efforts to preserve or improve the quality of the physical environment.

Race & Equity: MACRO will help youth, adults, and families who have been disproportionately impacted by violence and trauma, especially black, Latino and other communities of color, gain more equitable access to critical support services such as crisis response and related supportive services.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report That Provides An Update On Planning For Mobile Assistance Community Responders Of Oakland (MACRO) Pilot Program.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Guillermo Cespedes, Chief of Violence Prevention, at 510-238-2916.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sarai Crain, Deputy Director
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Attachments (1):

A: *Urban Strategies Council Report On Feasibility and Implementation Of A Pilot Of Mobile Assistance Crisis Responders of Oakland (MACRO)*