

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
July 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anders Ibsen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL-JMAC COMMITTEE

Anders Ibsen, Chair, City of Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County
Rick Talbert, Pierce County

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Metro Parks: Jennifer Bowman
Pierce County: Derek Young
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department: Dr. Anthony Chen, Sebrena Chambers

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim Reid moved to approve the agenda. Connie Ladenburg seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Connie Ladenburg moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2017. Tim Reid seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

 Opioid Epidemic – Dr. Anthony Chen

Dr. Chen opened the discussion by noting that an opioid epidemic is ravishing the country. He noted the wide spread use amongst the population. Several usage statics were highlighted including 75% of IV drug users are also Hepatitis C positive. In addition he noted untreated conditions cost the country over \$600 billion. He commented that use of opioids, morbidity and mortality have increased nationally, across the state and in Pierce County. A map outlining usage in the state of Washington was briefly reviewed. As a result of the opioid use, Dr. Chen commented on the burden it places on the healthcare system in the state. There were then several slides shown to the group that highlighted data trends indicating increase in opioid deaths and treatment in Pierce County.

Dr. Chen then shared results from a youth health survey. Results of the survey indicate that just over 92% of 10th graders report using heroin or painkillers “to get high”. The survey also indicated that 4.4% of those surveyed have used painkillers and 3% have tried heroin. Dr. Chen commented briefly on the adolescent misuse of opioids and a slight decrease in alcohol use.

The committee also reviewed several other diagrams that represent the other issues stemming from substance misuse including mental health issues, overdoses, crime and chronic disease. Discussion around the prevention and treatment then ensued. Strategies outlined by Dr. Chen include promoting best practice for prescribing opioids, expanding use of opioid disorder medication in communities including the criminal justice system, and helping with syringe exchange programs. Dr. Chen also shared strategies for using data to monitor and evaluate effectiveness of all these efforts. Committee members commented in some instances transportation is a barrier for those seeking treatment. Within Pierce County a task force has been formed to help direct all of these efforts. Dr. Chen commented that the task force currently still needs City representation and support from all agencies wherever possible. The task force is currently planning a summit.

Tim Reid suggested additional education in local schools about drug use. The health department noted that Tacoma's schools currently do have drug education in their curriculum.

Rick Talbert commented that changes in attitudes within the community will greatly help in administering these strategies.

DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

No items were discussed.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Joint Discussion Regarding Homelessness (August 11, 2017 - Quarterly Meeting)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Office of Equity & Human Rights Presentation (City of Tacoma)
- Affordable Housing
- Homeless Encampments (City, County Agencies, Tacoma Public Schools, Port of Tacoma)
- Sub-Area Plan – Tideflats Area
- Landbanking and Surplus Property Strategies Follow-Up (Jordan Rash, Forterra)
- IDEA
- Workforce Development
- South Sound 911/Emergency Management
- Continue Mental Health Conversation
- Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, Drugs, etc.
- Economic Development Growth and Impacts
- Trades, Apprenticeships, and Regional Partnerships (Tacoma SD, Bates, City)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 11, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anders Ibsen adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.