

Behavioral Health and Substance Misuse Needs Assessment

Safety Committee - February 16, 2022

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer



Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Overview

- \$250,000 contract amendment with Analytics and Insights Matter LLC, Feb – Dec 2022
- Includes Substance Misuse Assessment
- Initial results tentatively scheduled for June – August 2022



Prior Assessments

- Opioid Response Strategic Plan 2017/18
- Road To Wellness Strategic Framework 2019/20
- Empower Denver Behavioral Health Strategic Plan 2021



Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

- Increases in anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, trauma-related conditions, and substance use
- Disproportionate impact on young adults, Black, indigenous and people of color, essential workers, and people with pre-existing mental health conditions



Current State

- **49.4%** of Denver residents report a decline in mental health
- **17%** did not get needed mental health care in the past 12 months
- **110,181** people reported needing but not being able to access mental health services
- **11,648** people reported needing but not receiving substance use treatment services

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Comprehensive Needs Assessments

- Identify and characterize needs, challenges, and potential solutions from the perspective of people impacted and stakeholders
- Respondents will include people with lived experience across many behavioral health conditions



Comprehensive Needs Assessments

- Oversampling of difficult to reach groups such as people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, racial and ethnic groups, non-English speaking people, youth, and LGBTQ+
- Will use surveys, interviews and focus groups to collect information
- Incentives will be provided



Products

- Needs assessment findings
- Detailed written report with recommendations for system improvements
- PowerPoint presentation
- Summary infographic



ARPA Funding – Implementation

- Expanding the network of behavioral health providers
- Enhance overdose awareness education and harm reduction tactics related to fentanyl and other drugs



Council Action – RR22-0200

- Amend contract with Analytics and Insights Matter, LLC adding \$250,000
- Adds ARPA funded comprehensive behavioral health needs assessment into contract scope
- No change to contract timeline

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Questions

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