

Council Study Session

June 6, 2022

Agenda Item	Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)	
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Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

Informational report of Ashland Fire & Rescue beginning the process of integrating two MIH programs in our community.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Council Goal 1 - Develop current and long-term budgetary resilience

Council Goal 2 - Analyze City departments/programs to gain efficiencies, reduce costs and improve services

Cultivate External Funding Opportunities

Support Innovative Programs that Protect the Community

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

None

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Ashland Fire & Rescue Department (AFR) is in the process of establishing two Mobile Integrated Health Care (MIH) programs. First, what is MIH? MIH also referred to as Community Paramedicine, is the current term for community-based health care delivery model that primarily uses emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and systems in place. Mobile integrated health care and community paramedicine programs address wellness, prevention, care for the chronically ill, post-discharge care, social support networks, and increasing medical compliance for a local population (vulnerable and chronic use patients).

A little over a year ago, AFR entered into an agreement with Oregon Health Sciences Universities Nursing Program (OHSU-NP) to bring nursing students to AFR to support the CARES program. CARES is a form of MIH and provides numerous services. The OHSU-NP students assess patient home safety, identify barriers to health care, discuss health concerns, identify resources available, provide referrals to community resources for food, housing, transportation, clothing, and personal hygiene products, attend appointments with patients, and educate family members, friends and other caregivers. It took our implementation teams almost a year to get the necessary information and steps for the program to get up and running. AFR has agreed to support two students a semester moving forward. These students have just completed the inaugural term for the program, and it looks promising moving forward. You may have observed our two current students in the news Wednesday as they were assisting the rescued cat “Mimi” with our probationary firefighter Nick Peters during the Plaza Fire.

The students spend two days a week with us, identify up to four residents in need, and then follow them through their semester. When the students complete the semester, the nursing program supervisor assumes care of the identified patients and continues to support the patients until they are released from the program, or the new students arrive. After meeting with the executive director of the program the Ashland Fire & Rescue Department believes we may be able to implement the program on a larger scale beginning this fall. More details will be available later as we work through the information.

The next MIH program is with Mercy Flights. Several months ago, we met with Mercy Flights, and they asked us to help support an MIH program in Ashland and Talent. Mercy Flights is providing the funding; the AFR will provide the space and access to our community for the program. There was an opportunity to jointly apply for a \$75,000 grant through the Ashland Community Hospitals foundation. We agreed to work with Mercy Flights as they have an established and funded MIH program in their care delivery plan, and it would be a program we can add to our vulnerable population without direct cost to our budget. The grant will assist in providing funding for one full-time Mercy MIH-Paramedic to the Ashland and Talent area. The remaining funding for the position will be from the revenue generated by the MIH program. This will be a one-year pilot program to see the program's effectiveness in our two communities.

Sheila Clough, Mercy Flights CEO, and AFR will be coming before you in the future to provide information and statistics surrounding this program and the collaborative efforts between AFR and Mercy Flights INC in other areas.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational report no council action is needed at this time

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

None