

MAYOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON  
STRUCTURED SOBER LIVING HOMES  
WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2016  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT'S MAYOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURED SOBER LIVING HOMES HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2016, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, located at CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to order.

Meeting was called to order by Glenn Martin, Chairman at 5:00 p.m.

Roll call.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenn Martin, Chair man

Constance Cantelme, Member (arrived approx 10 minutes after)

Phil Goode, Member

Sue Jordan, Member

Tom Montague, Member

Lauren Newington, Member

Jeri Smith-Fornara, Member

Chair Martin stated there were a lot of public comment for the meeting and asked members to keep the questions to a minimum so there is a 45 minute allowance for public comment. Chair Martin stated that a committee member, Co-Chair Kristi Latcham, resigned and would he would like to nominate Member Phil Goode to Co-Chair of the committee. It was voted.

B. Approve April 27, 2016, minutes

Chair Martin then asked if there were any questions or changes to the minutes of April 27, 2016.

Page 3 – 1, 2, 4 and 6 paragraph questions were from Member Newington.

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Page 4 – There were 6 cases pending but also stated there were about 30 complaints looked at per month.

Page 4 – Marybeth Hrin name was misspelled

C. Presentation on Insurance Issues by Representative Noel Campbell and Marybeth Hrin.

Marybeth started off by giving background as to why she contacted Representative Campbell due to the fact that so many of the kids are getting released early from the programs. Hrin stated the primary health insurer in this area is Health Net. Health Net has since stopped paying on the programs going as far back as December last year. Sober Living contacted her stating that once the program is over they are on their own living in society. The facilities are releasing the kids before the program is complete because the insurance company is not paying. She also spoke to Judge Markham and he noticed a spike in crime as a result of the hurdles. Increase in alcohol shoplifting and believes it coincides clearly with Health Net insurer has stopped paying. Hrin shared the kids are getting together to get hotel rooms to have a place to live.

Representative Campbell stated House Bill 2107 is awaiting the signature of the Governor. The bill is the first step to give cities and counties a backstop. Help them proceed reasonably and regulate the industry. No word as to when the bill will in fact be signed. Campbell stated Hrin called him and shared with him that providers here have not been paid since December. Campbell stated he made phone calls and contacted the lobbyist for Health Net at the Capital and there was informed of there being a new CEO by the name of Paul Barnes in the Phoenix area. Campbell called Barnes and shared there is a problem here with providers not being paid and kids being released from facilities. Barnes stated he was unaware but would look into it. Barnes then called Campbell back and asked for further information and did more investigation. Barnes stated that payments should be forthcoming so the kids can receive the treatment. Campbell said no specifics were given to him and that it was just a general overall review that Barnes conducted.

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Chair Martin asked for both Hrin and Campbell to step forward for questions. Smith-Fornara thanked them for coming forward and the work being done. Appreciation towards Hrin for putting her name out there and the hours put into this.

Chair Martin asked Hrin the size of Health Net in this area. Hrin believes they are the number one provider that deals with the recovery homes. One of two that provides the market plans in Arizona. She urged the importance of the Exit Plans so this doesn't happen.

Member Cantelme asked Hrin if all representation was pulled from all faculties in town. Hrin stated it was from all in Arizona and California. Cantelme asked if agents will be sent to look into each facility. Representative Campbell stated that Mr. Barnes wasn't specific about that but that the monies would be coming in. Member Cantelme questioned if this had anything to do with the government investigation in some of the homes. Campbell responded he did not know. Chair Martin and Campbell had further discussion on what Mr. Barnes stated.

Chair Martin called on our City Attorney Jon Paladini and going over the implementation of HB2107 when it is signed. Chair Martin also asked members to write down questions so we have time for citizen comments.

D. Legal PowerPoint presentation/discussion done by Paladini.

Paladini stated that the PowerPoint presentation is just an overview where the City could go with some sort of an ordinance when 2107 is in effect. Paladini went over the definition of what a structured sober living home is. He went over what HB2107 is and what it allows the city to do in imposing rules and regulations. Paladini then asked if there were any questions on old business items 1 and 2. No questions asked. Chair Martin shared that handouts were located and available at the door reference definitions.

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E. Old Business

3. Ongoing discussion on Industries – operational strategies related to a client exiting

Chair Martin shared that Mike Fleming reached out to Promises' Home to come and comment and no one returned his call. Chair Martin then asked Albert Black to come forward to discuss Exit Strategies for Recovery in the Pines. Doug Dolan, co-owner Recovery in the Pines, came forward to speak. Dolan shared they have a licensed clinic, owns a 14 room motel used as a sober way living facility. They do not believe in renting homes in single family neighborhoods. They believe to stay in a commercial location. He thanked Rep Campbell, Hrin and Mayor Oberg with efforts put forward. Dolan then shared reasons for an exit strategy. One being they successfully completed the program and two they have a medical condition requiring them to a higher level of care. Program could discharge the patient for violation of rules and or the patient can discharge themselves against medical advice. Recovery in the Pines believes that the most effective exit strategy begins with the entry. He went on to share what they do when obtaining new patients and what their program consists of. He then went into explanation of what does the patient want out of the program, exit planning right at intake, submit a plan 90 days prior to their exit, 12 steps, life skills, worship (Christian based) education goals, housing, outstanding legal issues, health and fitness, Chef on staff to teach patients how to cook for themselves, offer continuing engagement in their program once they exit. They have a policy of offering shuttle services down to Sky Harbor. He stressed the facility cannot force patients to get on the shuttle. He shared that if patients are a danger to themselves or others and they leave, they have a responsibility to call authorities.

Member Smith-Fornara addressed Dolan and being aware of their organization and the costs. She asked how someone could take care of legal issues in addition to what it costs to be a part of their recovery. Dolan replied with insurance/private pay, private pay alone; finance it and or receiving a full or partial scholarship. Member Smith-Fornara stated that the white vans are bringing patients and the patients just sit there and do nothing. Dolan shared that their health and fitness director has a structured program and staff is present. Member Smith-Fornara then asked where the patients go for their 12 step meetings. Dolan shared they attend local meetings, their facilities; but unfortunately the meetings here locally are deteriorating.

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Member Cantelme stated that Recovery in the Pines has an all inclusive life program for the people coming into the program and asked having the 12 step program is it equally successful for upcoming heroin addiction program and if their facility pays for an airline ticket. Dolan responded said it is, if people put their full effort into it and that their facility does not pay for airline tickets. Chair Martin asked if there were other Industry representatives present and Mike Fleming introduced Bridges and Solutions.

Representatives Bonnie DenDooven, licensed professional counselor and director of programming, Mark Temple from Solution House and Roy Thomas, CEO of Bridges network. Bonnie DenDooven went on to discuss that 3 ½ years ago when they began there was a policy here in Prescott by many treatment facilities to "72 to the street". (Take patient in, shower, food, place to sleep then after 72 hours they would return patient to their original facility) Bonnie doesn't see as many "72's to the street" as there used to be. The representatives went on to discuss about their facility and program. Bridges and Solutions feel that if the patient recommits to the process after relapse they restart at stage one. They have a 5 stage process, as control/release program. Stage one, no contact with the public for up to 45 days. Stage two, given their cell phone and computer. They work on their own recovery while interacting with outside world. Stage three is for approximately 45 days; work ethics, job market, offer themselves to an employer. Stage four and five is preparing a resume, aptitude testing and go out and offer their assistance in the job market. Roy Thomas, CEO, shared that he is missing money from Health Net; he is open for questions as well.

Chair Martin asked if they had a program similar to Recovery in the Pines that will take patients down to Sky Harbor. Bonnie replied that yes they have purchased plane tickets for patients and do provide shuttle.

Member Newington asked Roy Thomas how many facilities they have. Thomas shared they are one of the largest. 2 licensed facilities and 15 residential homes. Co-Chair Goode asked what explanation they received for delay of getting paid from Health Net. Thomas answered they were looking for illegal activities, patient brokering, not collecting co-payments. Goode asked if an expected date was given and Thomas is

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anticipating a quick response. Member Cantelme asked if keeping a success rate is done regularly and Thomas stated there is a policy on the research but not reported anywhere. Bonnie shared the stats are being sent to an independent agency and published. Success rate for Bridges and Solutions is all lumped together. Temple stated their vision is to help the kids.

F. New Business, Chair Martin shared that he and Chief Monahan would have a side bar discussion on citizen concerns that were brought forward.

G. Public Comment

Brad Royce, Prescott citizen, phone number 928.778.9272, has been covering the "Operation Polluted" started by a DEA investigation. Investigation started in 2013, arrested 600 drug dealers; doctors and pharmacists in possession of fake forms. Royce went into further detail about organized crime and cracking down. Member Smith-Fornara went on to discuss illegal activities that offices are doing with these facilities in regards to writing false prescriptions.

Albert Black, Recovery in the Pines representative, welcomed people to do a day with their facility to see what they do. Member Newington asked how many facilities they have; Black replied one facility in Prescott. Co-Chair Goode asked if their facility kept a success rate; Black replied no and yes they have scholarships available. Member Cantelme asked Black if the facilities get together to communicate. Black responded no because he doesn't want to be like them so he doesn't associate himself with them.

Member Cantelme addressed Representative Campbell reference the house monitors and education process. Who will be shaping that, who will be a good house monitor? Campbell responded that would be a good question addressed to the committee itself. Does what the committee thinks should be done. Campbell thinks they should be Sober, mature, knowledgeable, caring and doing their job.

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Member Smith-Fornara stated there is a magazine that all members should subscribe to.

Co-Chair Goode stated he talked to City Managers in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa about costs of litigation, settlement charges and a copy of their ordinance. He could use their template to customize it for Prescott. Paladini then expressed that California laws and Arizona laws are very different as well as within the cities.

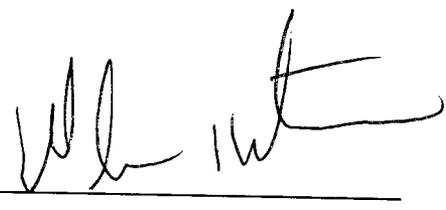
Jackie Weaver had a question for the committee if any of the members were a parent. She feels that being a parent and being a part of the committee there is a great deal of input.

Dave Schrider, Prescott citizen, had a problem next door to him with the residents and realizes it will be tough on Coding and the police department as well as the City to catch up. Chief Monahan expressed that anytime a citizen has an issue to call the police department that way an officer can go out and make note of the address where there is an issue to investigate.

Chair Martin asked for any further comments. Member Newington thanked Mike Fleming for his response to her neighborhood. Member Smith-Fornara shared there should be another code enforcement officer.

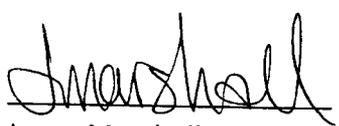
H. Next meeting – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday June 8, 2016, City Council Chambers

I. Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Glenn Martin, Chairman

Attest:



Joyce Marshall,  
Police Records Supervisor