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Sponsor(s): Johnson (Mayor) *

Type: Ordinance

Title: Establishment of working group for development of recommendations regarding provision of mental health services

Committee Assignment: Committee on Health and Human Relations

HLTH



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

September 14, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Alderman Rodriguez-Sanchez, an ordinance establishing a working group to develop recommendations regarding the provision of mental health services.

Your favorable consideration of this ordinance will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJ", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, The City is committed to strengthening Chicago's system of mental health care to ensure all Chicagoans are supported by the care they need when and where they need it, regardless of ability to pay, immigration status, or health insurance; and

WHEREAS, According to Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s Healthy Chicago Survey, in 2022, an estimated 75%, or 143,200, of Chicago adults who were classified as having moderate or serious psychological distress also reported that they were not currently taking medicine or receiving treatment from a doctor or other health professional for any mental health condition or emotional problem; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, there were 19 publicly-ran CDPH Mental Health Centers (MHC) plus the CDPH operated Chicago Alcohol Treatment Center. Since 1989, amid significant cuts to state and federal funding supporting CDPH-run mental health centers, 14 of the 19 centers were closed. Today, CDPH operates five public mental health centers located in the Englewood, Grand Boulevard, Near West Side, North Park and West Elsdon community areas; and

WHEREAS, In Chicago, CDPH-run mental health centers are an essential piece of a bigger mental health safety net. There are currently only 5 CDPH public and accessible mental health centers that integrate mental health services with primary care and other services for underserved Chicago residents regardless of their ability to pay, immigration status, insurance status, or zip code; and

WHEREAS, The CDPH mental health budget expanded more than seven-fold from \$12M to \$89M between 2019 and 2023, allowing the Department to expand access to mental healthcare, reaching tens of thousands more Chicagoans. Over the last four years, CDPH has scaled city-funded, no barrier mental health services to all 77 neighborhoods through the five CDPH-run mental health clinics and a network of trauma-informed centers of care. In addition, CDPH has integrated mental health services into non-clinical settings, such as by embedding mental health professionals in Chicago public libraries and 80 homeless shelters around the city; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE) Pilot Program launched its first mental health crisis response teams in September 2021 and, as of September 3, 2023, has responded to 1,155 calls for service without use of force or arrest. The CARE program seeks to ensure that 911 calls with a mental health component are responded to by teams that include behavioral health professionals with resources to address unmet health and social needs; and

WHEREAS, There are currently three types of CARE teams in the field: multidisciplinary response teams, composed of a Chicago Fire Department (CFD) paramedic, CDPH mental health professional, and Chicago Police Department Crisis Intervention Team officer; alternate response teams composed of a CFD paramedic and CDPH mental health professional; and an opioid response team that conducts follow-up visits with people who have experienced an overdose and received EMS response, composed of a CFD paramedic and a peer recovery specialist; and

WHEREAS, CARE Teams are providing services in police districts covering Auburn Gresham, Chatham, Chicago Lawn, East Garfield Park, Gage Park, Humboldt Park, Lakeview, Loop, Near South, North Center, Uptown, West Elsdon, West Englewood, West Garfield Park, and West Lawn; and

WHEREAS, Treatment Not Trauma (TNT) is a campaign supported by a coalition of community members, aldermen, social workers, and youth, who all want to see a city with a funded, robust public care system and a city-wide crisis response program. The goal of the campaign is to push for greater public investments in mental health infrastructure to ensure that Chicagoans can get the mental health care that they need; and

WHEREAS, The TNT campaign has developed a policy proposal to realize this goal. The four key components of the TNT proposal are to: (1) open new, City-run mental health centers, (2) hire community care workers; (3) expand non-police mobile crisis response and improve dispatch infrastructure; and (4) provide sustained funding for TNT and integrate TNT into CDPH's broader community health initiatives; and

WHEREAS, To develop a suggested framework and roadmap to meet Treatment Not Trauma's goals to expand mental health clinical services and citywide response for behavioral and mental health crises, it is appropriate to establish a working group; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM EXPANSION WORKING GROUP

SECTION 1.

(a) Definitions.

As used in SECTION 1 of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

"Departments" means the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, Department of Assets, Information, and Services, Department of Human Resources, Office of Emergency Management and Communications, Fire Department, and Office of Budget and Management.

(b) Working Group

(1) *Establishment of a Working Group.* The Mayor's Office, with consultation from the Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Relations, shall establish a working group no later than 30 days after the effective date of this ordinance. The working group shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the Chicago Departments of Public Health; Fire; Assets, Information, and Services; Human Resources; the Mayor's Office; the Office of Budget and Management; and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

(2) *Working Group Guidelines.*

(A) The working group shall be tasked with developing a suggested framework and roadmap for the City to expand mental health clinical services, non-police response for behavioral and mental health crises, and community awareness of available mental health resources. The roadmap recommendation should include consideration of: budget

needs and potential sources of revenue; a framework for prioritizing geographic expansion; capital and facility needs; staffing, recruitment, and retention strategies; community input; state and federal legal and regulatory parameters including, but not limited to, those set by the Illinois Community Emergency Services and Supports Act; and metrics to guide implementation and evaluate success.

(B) The working group shall meet no less than 3 times before May 1, 2024 to determine their recommendations.

(C) The working group shall consult with no fewer than 10 community members when determining their recommendations. Community members shall include representatives from at least one federally qualified health center, at least one community mental health center (MHC), at least one CDPH behavioral health clinician, clients of CDPH MHCs, organized labor, behavioral health experts, community organizations, researchers, gender-based violence advocates, youth or youth-serving organizations, and other sources as jointly determined by the Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Relations, the Mayor's Office, and the Departments.

(D) The working group shall detail their recommendations in a written report to the Mayor, the Committee on Health and Human Relations, and the Departments no later than May 31, 2024.

(3) *Sunset Date*. The working group shall sunset after June 30, 2024.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval.