



Ordinance No. 240284

3/19/24



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Alternatives to Incarceration Findings

I. Responsibilities

- a. Tasked with developing and recommending strategies to tackle the underlying causes of incarceration in Kansas City, MO.

II. Phase 1: Pre-Arrest

- a. Alternative Response before court and law enforcement involvement

Alternatives Response

National data show that crisis diversion as an alternative to incarceration can positively impact long-term outcomes for individuals dealing with homelessness, mental health, substance use, and poverty.

'We need to do something better' | Travis County leaders plan to open new mental health diversion center

The goal is to get those accused of low-level crimes mental health treatment instead of jail.

As eligibility grows, more people in Tarrant County can get treatment instead of jail time

Evansville diversion center serves as alternative solution to incarceration, hospital visits

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:12 AM EDT
Updated: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 01:47 PM EDT
By [Mitzel S. Morris](#)



1. <https://www.kvue.com/article/news/investigations/defenders/travis-county-mental-health-diversion-center/269-3ea0a149-7a7a-47e9-81c1-a122a723d391>
2. <https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/evansville-diversion-center-serves-as-alternative-solution-to-incarceration-hospital-visits>
3. <https://www.keranews.org/criminal-justice/2023-12-04/as-eligibility-grows-more-people-in-tarrant-county-can-get-treatment-instead-of-jail-time>

Kansas City-Specific Issues

Identifying Issues:

- I. Houselessness as a pervasive cause of incarceration.
- II. Inadequate resources for mental health and substance use.
- III. Existing, limited, alternatives to incarceration.
- IV. Overburdening of officers in admitting individuals to Emergency Departments (ED).
- V. Lack of support for harm victims, such as business owners.

Identifying Solutions

- I. Access to immediate, affordable housing
- II. Providing urgent and long-term support and resources for mental health and substance use
- III. Expanding alternatives to incarceration beyond court system
- IV. Follow ups and barrier reduction with those directly experiencing issues whether it be individual impacted or complaints

Case Study: Policing Alternatives and Diversion Program, Atlanta, GA

- I. Diversion Service
 - Diversion hotline which serves as alternative to 911.
 - Addresses quality of life concerns related to substance use, mental health, or extreme poverty.
 - Involves agreement between PAD and the individual for collaborative work, bypassing police report and booking.
- II. Housing First and Harm Reduction
 - Provision of immediate shelter, transportation, and food for up to three months.
 - Outreach and Case Management: Regular engagement through weekly office with Care Navigators and street visits by street outreach teams.
 - Service Linkage: Connection with service providers for essential needs like ID documents, recovery support, and employment services.



Examples of Quality of Life Concerns

- I. PAD responds to quality of life concerns related to mental health, substance use or extreme poverty. This includes:
 - Disturbances (such as someone yelling outside a business or blocking traffic)
 - Public indecency (such as someone naked or bathing in a public place)
 - Welfare (such as someone asking for food or help)
 - Mental health (such as someone who appears disoriented, erratic, or is talking to themselves)
 - Substance use (such as someone using drugs in public)
 - Public health (such as someone getting food from a dumpster or using the bathroom in a public place)
 - Basic needs (such as someone in need of shelter and sleeping outside)

General Summary of Ordinance 240284

I. Operations

- A. Overview

- B. Key Components of REACH

- C. Budget

II. Housing & Barrier Reduction

Overview

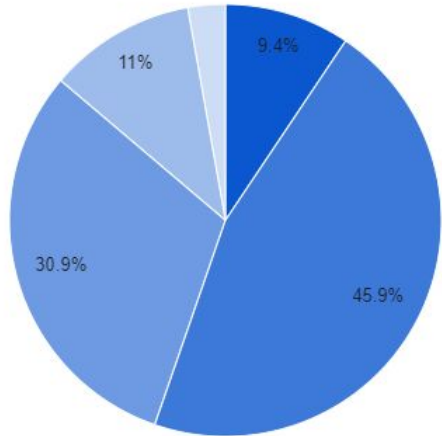
- I. This ordinance adds a new program, titled “REACH” to be housed within the city’s Health Department
- II. Pilot program within three areas
 - Prospect Corridor
 - Downtown
 - KCATA
- III. Requesting 1.26 million for operating costs
 - Personnel and equipment

Key Components of REACH

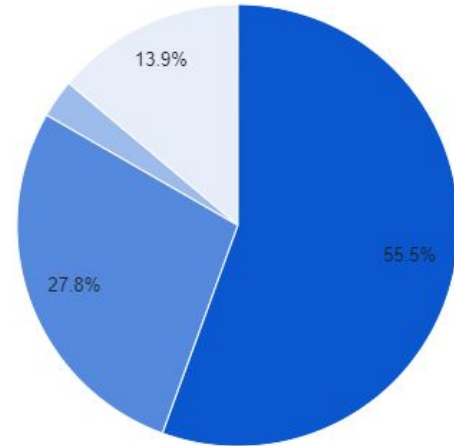
- I. Comprehensive Engagement
 - Develop and implement a pre-arrest diversion program with outreach and case management to connect individuals with necessary services
 - Establish staff to foster trust and offer continuous support and resources.
 - Engage community partners for feedback
- II. Call Routing:
 - Collaborate with 311, 911, 988, and 211 specialists to ensure calls requesting services aligned with our program are efficiently routed
- III. Public Education:
 - City website & communication channels
 - Community events
 - Outreach to partners & impacted people

Budget

Staffing Costs (\$906000)



Equipment Costs (\$360000)



Housing & Barrier Reduction

I. Barrier Reduction Funds:

- City Manager to develop a plan to reduce barriers to accessing supportive services.
- Funds will be distributed through partner providers to directly support disbursement.

II. Housing Options:

- City Manager to develop a plan for expanding rapid rehousing options.

Questions?
