

- J. Reynolds, Chair**
- W. Baxter, Vice-Chair**
- D. Wu
- C. Ellinger
- T. Morton
- S. Lynch
- D. Gray
- J. Hale
- A. Beasley
- H. Boone



Social Services and Public Safety (SSPS) Committee

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

1:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| I. | Approval of April 15 , 2025 Committee Summary | [Reynolds] | (1-2) |
| II. | Substance Use Disorder Intervention Update | [Reynolds/Combs Marks] | (3-18) |
| III. | EmPATH Center Update | [Sheehan/Woods, Jasinski] | (19-31) |
| IV. | Hope Center Expansion Project Update | [Lynch/Crook] | (32-40) |
| V. | Items Referred to Committee | [Reynolds] | (41) |

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 14	June 3
January 28	July 3*
February 25	August 26
April 15	October 14

*Note: The July 3 meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday

"Social Services and Public Safety Committee, to which shall be referred matters relating to the department of social services and its divisions, the department of public safety and its divisions, any related partner agencies, and matters relating to capital improvement projects." - Council Rules & Procedures of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, Section 4.102 (1)



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

April 15, 2025

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Committee Members Vice Mayor Dan Wu, Chuck Ellinger II, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Denise Gray, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, Whitney Elliott Baxter, and Hilary Boone were present. Council Members James Brown, Emma Curtis, Liz Sheehan, and Dave Sevigny were present as non-voting members.

Motion by Baxter to change the order of agenda presentations: 1. Sheriff's Office: Review of Services and Resources, 2. Review of the Sober Living Ordinance, and 3. Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition. Seconded by Morton. Motion passed without dissent.

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Ellinger to approve the February 25, 2025 Committee Summary. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

II. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: REVIEW OF SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Kathy Witt, Fayette County Sheriff, provided an overview of the services and resources the Sheriff's office offers to crime victims. She spoke about Amanda's Center, where advocates and others support those who walk in. Victims are supported throughout the process of filing for a protective order, which is renewable every 3 years. Federal funding allows for other initiatives such as ride-share credit for essential appointments such as court appearances, window alarms, and a Ring doorbell. When there is a substantial violation of EPO, the person can be on GPS monitoring if the judge orders. Protective orders can be filed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in the Fayette County District Courthouse. When EPOs and DVOs are entered, they are enforced across the U.S. Witt said they support anyone who walks in; victims can be of any gender or race. Victims could be in a hospital or at home, afraid to come out, so there are deputized workers to assist them wherever they are. **No action was taken on this item.**

III. REVIEW OF SOBER LIVING ORDINANCE

Michael Cravens, Managing Attorney in the Department of Law, presented the Sober Living Ordinance. He said regulating this ordinance will require balancing several interests, such as vulnerable populations, recovery residential operators, regulating bad actors, and neighborhood residents. He reviewed the background on state laws [KRS 222.502](#) and [222.504](#). The [Fair Housing Act \(FHA\)](#) and the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) are federal laws that protect persons from discrimination when enacting any ordinance. Those in recovery from substance abuse disorders generally qualify as disabled persons, which prohibits the use of regulations in a way that would discriminate against the disabled. The proposed ordinance requires operators to obtain a Recovery Residence License, proof of certification, and a zoning compliance permit; creates an enforcement scheme that authorizes civil citations and penalties against operators in violation; allows 6 months following passage of the ordinance for operators to get in compliance. The proposed ordinance does not regulate recovery residences differently regarding land use, as this is a residential use and should be treated like other residential uses.

Cravens said the maximum occupancy is eight, which follows the occupancy limit of the zoning ordinance. He said they would act more urgently if there were a threat of harm or a risk to public safety or health, and could trigger immediate closure. Issues are typically complaint-driven and would be routed to the appropriate divisions through 311. In 13-97(b), the word *location* is to avoid listing the address and could mean a Council district or an area of town. Cravens explained that the definition of recovery residence and services provided is taken from state law. State law prohibits permanent services. These are not like a medical facility where there would be a set schedule of services. Cravens explained that obtaining a zoning compliance permit certifies that the use of property is appropriate for the zone and differentiates a recovery residence from a residential home.

The FHA or ADA would not protect from the illegal use of controlled substances. If someone is caught "using", that would be a certification/compliance issue. Cravens said the ordinance addresses protection for residents, as we ensure bad actors cannot exploit the tenant. Cravens said a house is like a foreclosed house, where the tenant(s) would need to find alternative housing if the house is shut down. Kacy Allen Bryant said there is no capacity to rehouse vulnerable people. Still, our recovery program provides rent and will set aside a portion for those who can prove they lost housing. Cravens said this ordinance doesn't regulate the misconduct of tenants and that the house owner is responsible for evicting the tenant. This item will stay in committee for further discussion as the item's sponsors follow up with divisions. **No action was taken on this item.**

IV. DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

Stephanie Theakston - DSVPC Coordinator discussed [It's Time Lexington](#), a city-wide action-oriented initiative to end domestic and sexual violence in our communities. They are expanding partnerships with initiatives that focus on children. She reviewed the program's mission: to create a culture of safety and empowered stakeholders through advocacy, education, collaboration, and service coordination for communities impacted by interpersonal violence. She reviewed the program's goals and spoke about outreach and awareness efforts. She reviewed facts about sexual assault and said Kentucky has a higher rate of sexual assault than the national average. Sexual assault remains the most underreported crime, with 63% of sexual assaults not reported to police. She spoke about the mental health impacts that sexual assault has on survivors, and she reviewed ways to respond. She explained the culture of sexual violence and said it is not just about individuals, individual actions, and individual responses. It's about systems and what we promote and tolerate in our community. When we change our communities to be more inclusive and equitable for people of all gender identities and expressions, races and ethnic backgrounds, ages, faiths, and abilities, we are better able to protect everyone within those communities against the risk of sexual violence. Finally, Theakston highlighted Wake Up Lex, which is a social media initiative that will take place on Friday, April 18. **No action was taken on this item.**

V. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this committee item.

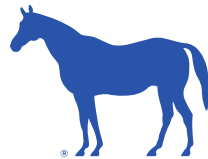
The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Carmen Combs Marks, Substance Use Disorder Intervention Coordinator, Social Services

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

June 3, 2025



LEXINGTON



Substance Use Disorder Intervention Program

- The city's Substance Use Disorder Intervention Program is a resource for individuals searching for information about substance use, addiction and treatment services.
- SAMHSA Grant (EFRCPD/Non-Traditional Approach to Community Naloxone Distribution)
- RSLA
- Mayors Substance Use Disorder Advisory Committee
- Opioid Abatement Commission

Expanded First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project (EFRCPO)



LEXINGTON

The four-year SAMHSA grant was awarded for September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2026. We begin with our focus on the initial grant year from September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023. The first three months of the grant year were focused on project implementation of naloxone distribution and outreach services. Because of the recent increase in opioid-related fatal overdoses, there was a definite need for naloxone distribution.

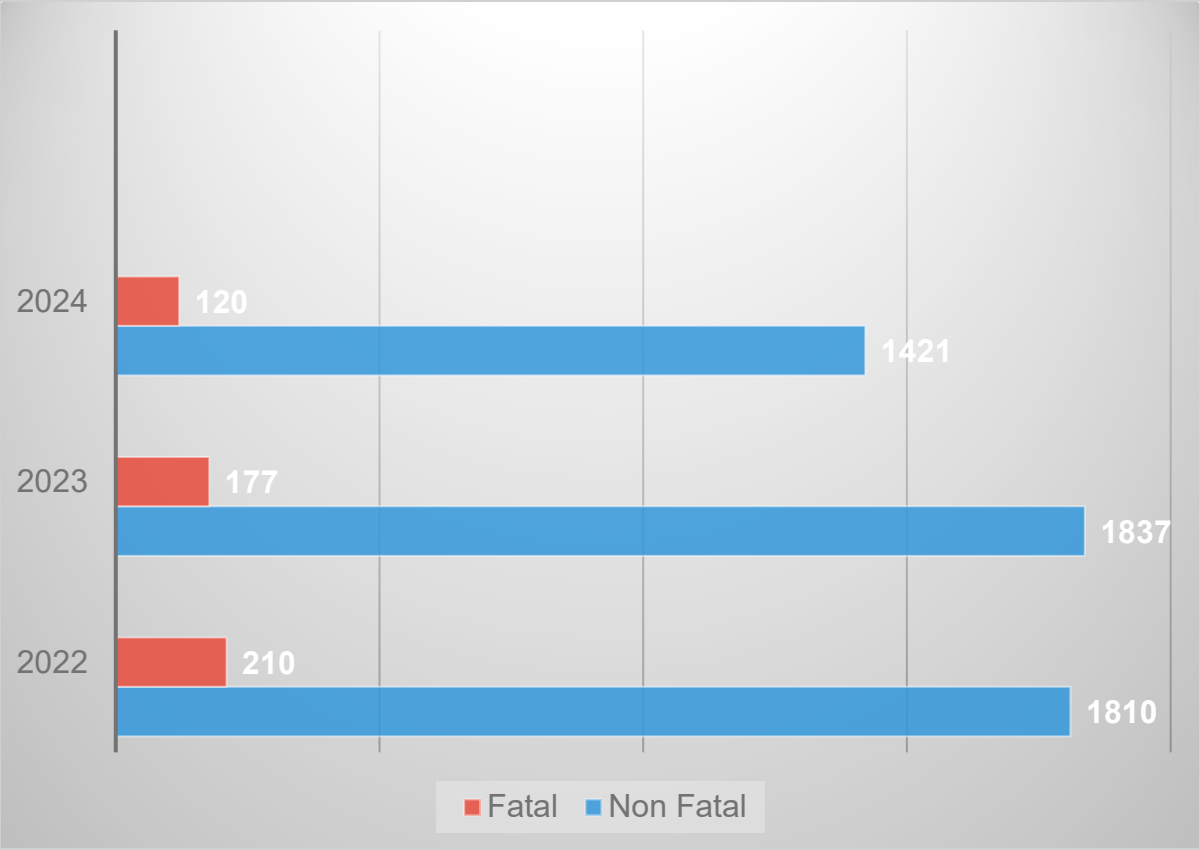
LFUCG partners with the Lexington Fayette County Health Department for outreach services and the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol for data collection and evaluation.



- **Goal 1:** Provide naloxone and naloxone administration training to community members through the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Syringe Service Program, community outreach and training events, and the Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedicine Leave Behind Program.
- **Goal 2:** Provide naloxone, naloxone administration training, and overdose education to first responders.
- **Goal 3:** Provide service navigation to substance use treatment, recovery services, and harm reduction for community members who are at risk for an opioid overdose.

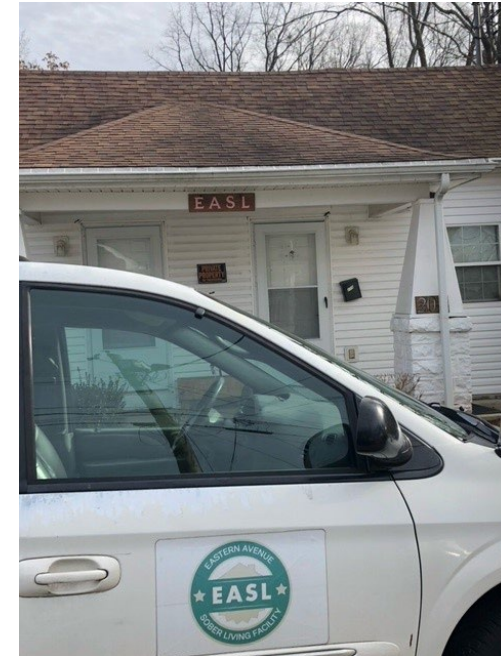
Outreach

- To address barriers, the EFRCPOPP Overdose Prevention Coordinator (OPC) was trained to conduct naloxone administration training and distribute naloxone kits through a partnership with the medical director of the Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- The OPC also noticed a need to distribute naloxone at non-traditional locations, such as gas stations, barbershops, and coffee shops. He was able to develop rapport with more individuals in the community who would not have sought out a traditional naloxone training event.



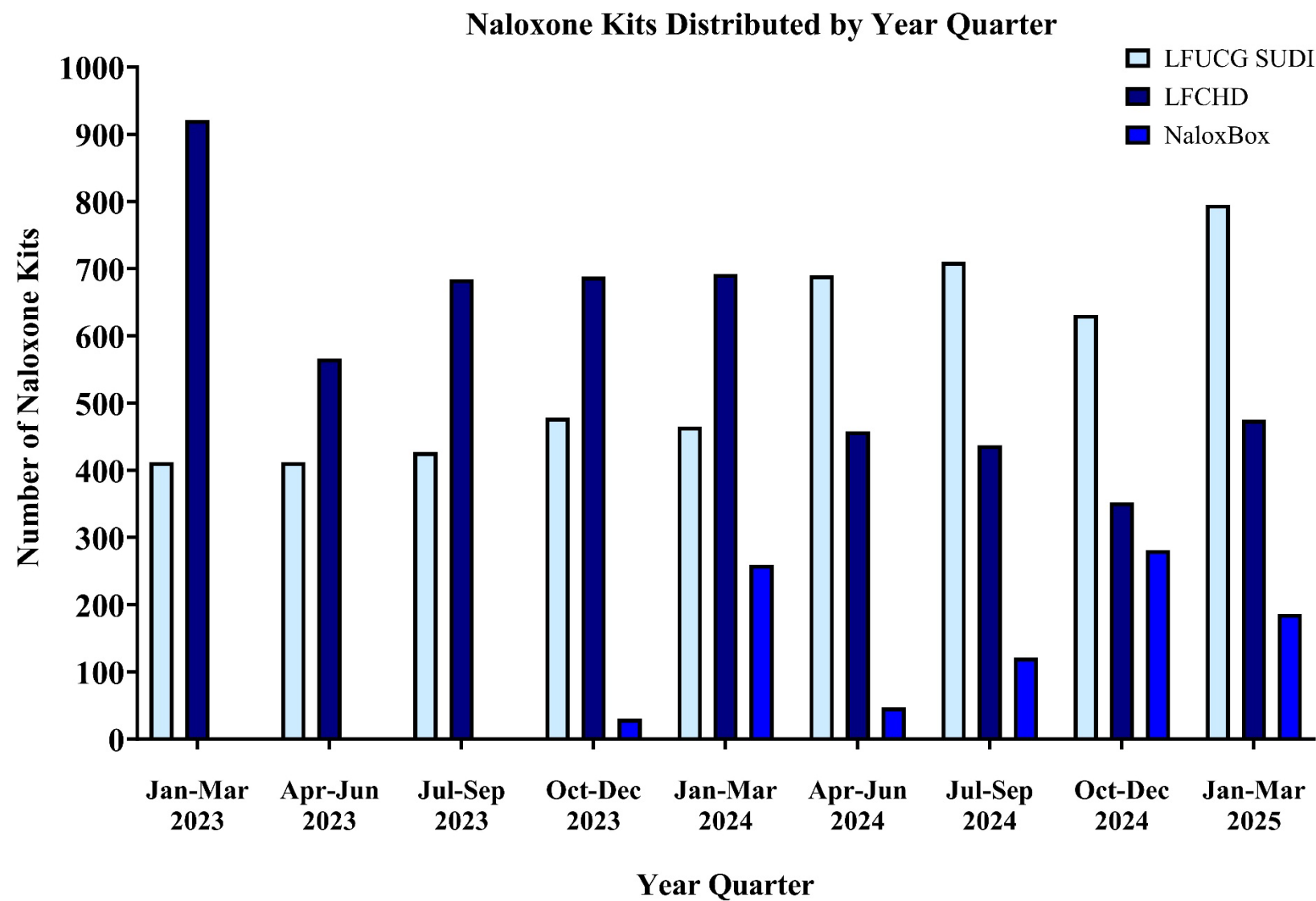
Implementing Outreach

- OPC continues training at established sites through the community as well as nontraditional locations throughout the community.
 - **Sober Living Programs**
 - Oxford House
 - Victory House
 - Perfect Imperfections
 - Primary Purpose
 - Shepherds House
 - Eastern Ave
 - Tracy's House
 - Simple Solutions



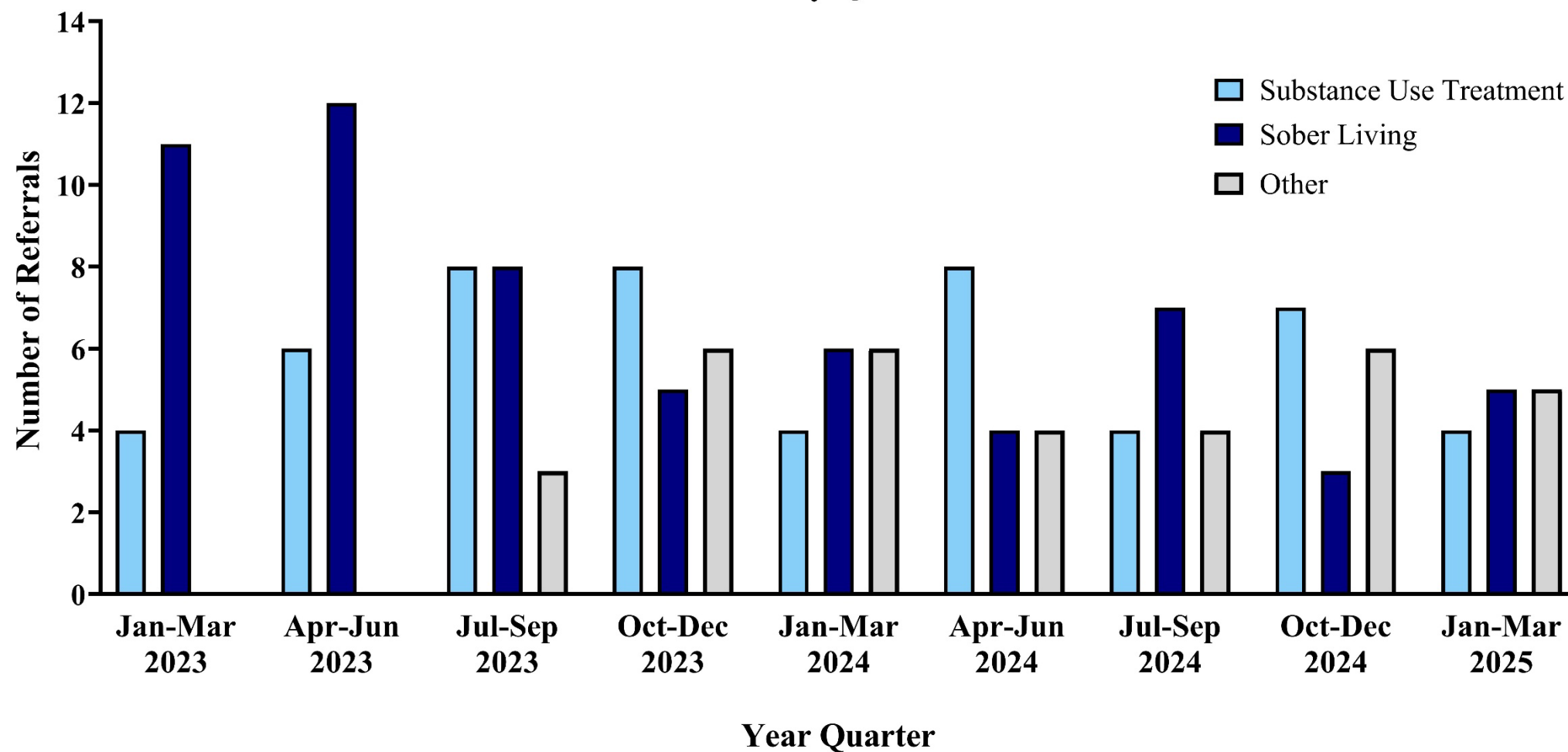
Recovery Supportive Living Assistance (RSLA) Program

- In October 2020, LFUCG piloted a program that assisted individuals entering in or continuing in a recovery residence who were experiencing a financial barriers. RSLA provides one-time assistance every two years to an individual who meets the criteria of the program.
- A participant is eligible for \$500.00 in assistance (funds go to the owner/operator)
 - FY2023- \$220K (Assisted 550 clients)
 - FY2024- \$200K (Assisting 500 clients)
 - FY2025- \$300K (Assisting clients with \$500 monthly)





Number of Referrals by Quarter



The Mayor's Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council

- The main purposes of this group is to provide guidance on both the Lexington Outreach/Overdose Prevention and the First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project grants and to advise the mayor on issues related to treatment, recovery, and support on all issues related to substance use disorder.

NATIONAL OPIOID LITIGATION

- November 9, 2017. LFUCG filed suit against numerous defendants seeking relief from the opioid epidemic.
 - Defendants include manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies and others.
- December 5, 2017. A multi-district litigation (MDL) established in United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, consolidating all or nearly all municipal plaintiffs from around the country into one action for discovery purposes.

Opioid Abatement Commission

- The Opioid Abatement Commission was created June 2023, to make recommendations to the administration and Urban County Council on how to best use funds received from the National Opioid Litigation settlement.

**Amounts Allocated and Paid to Lexington-Fayette Urban County, KY**

Row	Settlement	Total Allocation Amount	Total Payment Amount
1.	Distributor	\$2,159,675.38	\$2,159,675.38
2.	Janssen	\$1,978,010.14	\$1,978,010.14
3.	Teva	\$266,160.06	\$266,160.06
4.	Allergan	\$308,975.61	\$308,975.61
5.	CVS	\$299,756.96	\$299,756.96
6.	Walgreens	\$500,805.09	\$500,805.09
7.	Walmart	\$1,525,725.58	\$1,525,725.58
8.	McKinsey	\$265,432.46	\$265,432.46
9.	Kroger-Kentucky	\$394,632.06	\$394,632.06
10.	Totals	\$7,699,173.34	\$7,699,173.34



Opioid Abatement Commission Activities

- The Recovery Ready Communities Certification Program is designed to provide a quality measure of a city or county's substance use disorder (SUD) recovery efforts. The program offers local officials, recovery advocates, and concerned citizens the opportunity to evaluate their community's current SUD treatment programs and interventions in a framework that is designed to maximize positive public health outcomes among Kentuckians suffering from SUD.
- Community Town Halls
- Commission Recommendations
- Monthly Meetings [Opioid Abatement Commission | City of Lexington](#)
[\(lexingtonky.gov\)](#)

Questions?



LEXINGTON



A Successful New Model: Using EmPATH To Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes

**Dr. Lindsey Jasinski, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Marc Woods, Chief Nursing Officer
Eastern State Hospital/UK HealthCare**

What is EmPATH?



Emergency



Psychiatric



Assessment



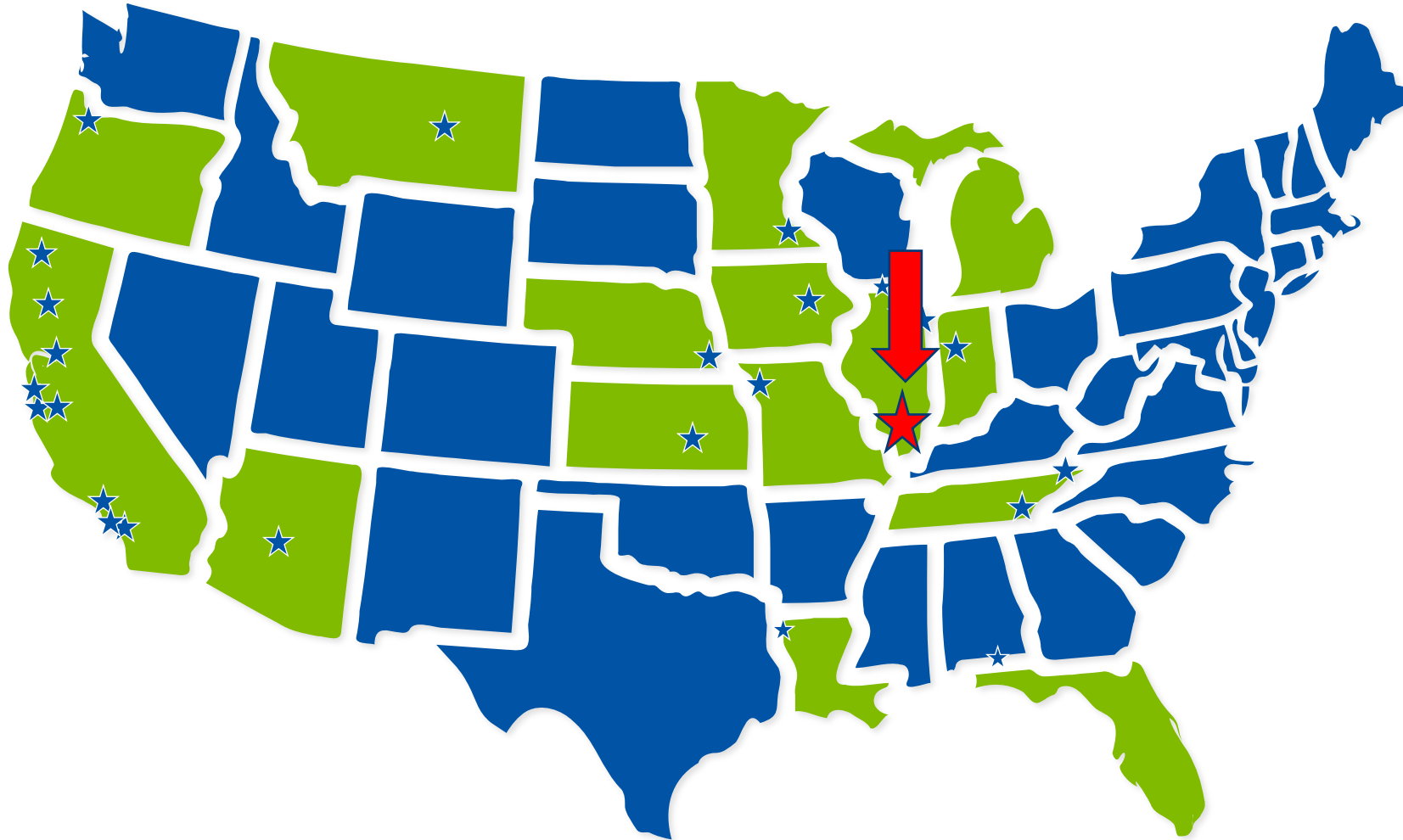
Treatment



Healing

EmPATH Model Expanding Nationally

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“EmPATH units should be considered a National Best Practice, and we will take the EmPATH unit knowledge back as a *best practice to Joint Commission Central...*”

- Joint Commission Surveyor

EmPATH enhancements

Emergency Dept

- Treatment of emergency medical conditions/BH crisis
- ED MD -> Psych consult
- Assessment
- Individual bay/room -> Isolation
- Fast paced environment
- ligatures present
- Sitter usage routine
- 72 hour hold for all BH
- Restrictive interventions as needed
- Focus on treatment planning and disposition

EmPATH

- Treatment of emergency BH crisis
- Psychiatric provider
- **Treatment**
- Recliner chair in **open** space
- Focus on **connection**
- **Calm** therapeutic milieu
- **Reduced ligature**
- Limited use of sitters
- Limited 72 hour holds
- Limited use of restrictive intervention
- Focus on collaboration & connection

Therapeutic Environment

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Opening Ceremony July 30, 2024

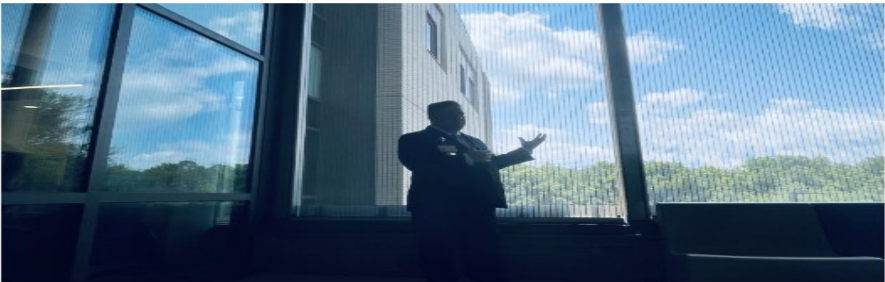


Local/Regional News

Picture an emergency room designed to calm and relax. That's what UK HealthCare hopes to create with its new mental health unit

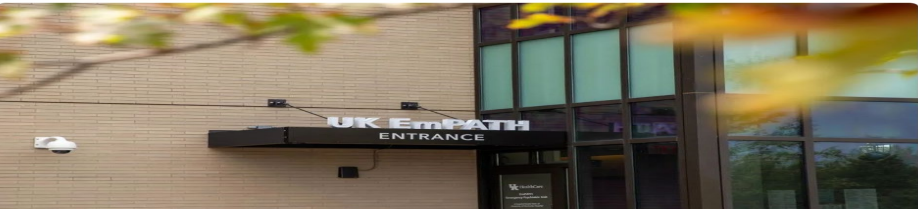
WUKY | By Josh James
Published July 30, 2024 at 4:10 PM EDT

▶ LISTEN • 1:44



HERALD-LEADER University of Kentucky opens the first emergency psychiatric care unit in the state

Kendall Station
July 30, 2024 • 2 min read



With a new mental health emergency unit, University of Kentucky seeks to decrease stigma

BY: SARAH LADD - AUGUST 12, 2024 9:05 AM



UK Kentucky UKNOW | UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY NEWS

UK HealthCare opens 1st EmPATH psychiatric emergency unit in Kentucky

By Allison Perry July 31, 2024

1 of 8 <>



Media Resources

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Latest Stories

UK HEALTHCARE Friday
COVID, flu shots now available at UI
Pharmacies

RESEARCH Friday

16 chair capacity

Opened with 12 chairs, quickly increased capacity to 16.
Currently working to expand to 24 chairs.

Separate from ED

Located 5 miles away from the system EDs. No medical clearance required prior to arrival, work closely with EMS.

23-hour Outpt. Obs.

Licensed as outpatient dept of hospital. Triage is hospital-based clinic visit, followed by observation.

Low Barrier

No major requirements to meet prior to arrival; take any patients. Voluntary and involuntary arrival.

Community Partners

Meet weekly to monthly with wide range of community partners to enhance community resource access. New Vista staffs 24/7.

Patient defined crisis

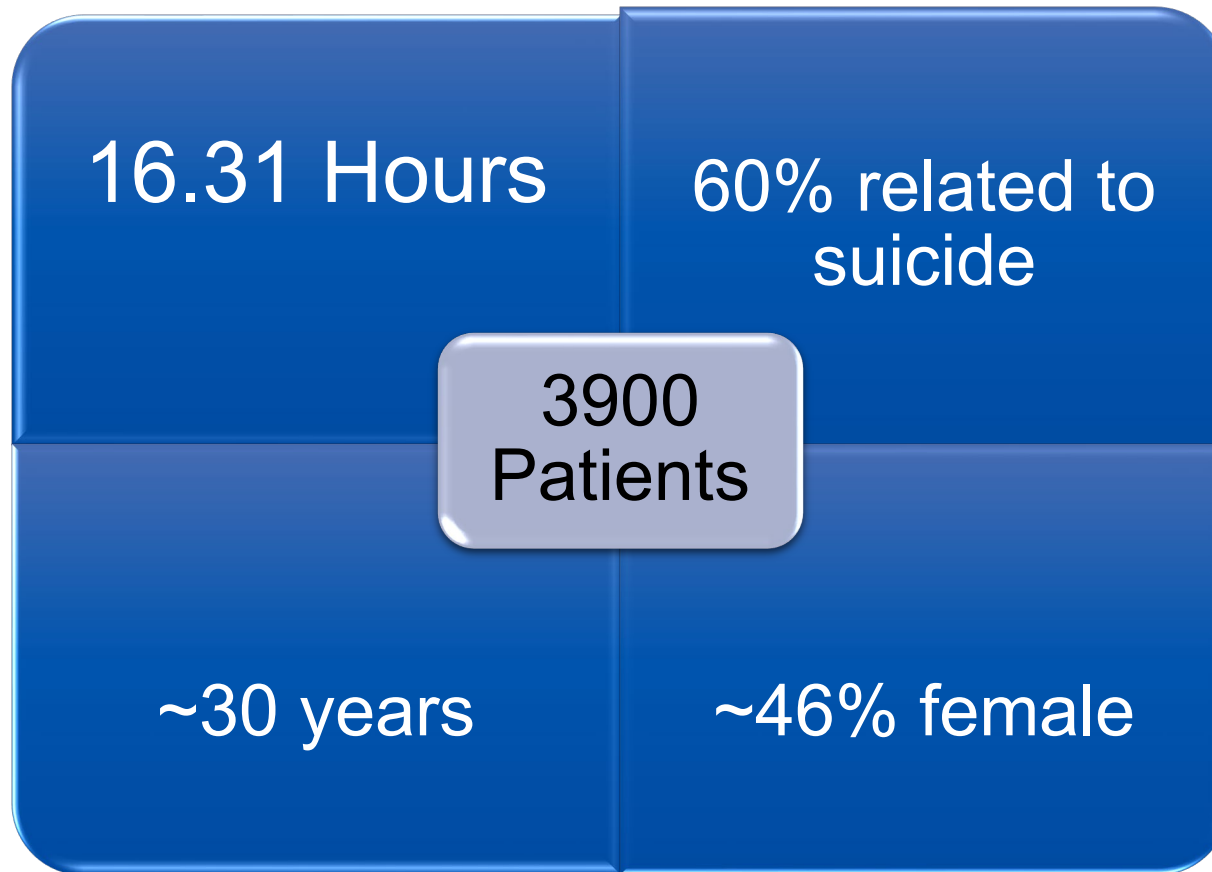
Philosophy of no exclusion: able to treat complex conditions, including combination of SUD, MH, IDD, etc.

UKHC EmPATH Team

- Physicians/APPs (in person 24/7)
- Nurses (2-3 per shift)
- Mental Health Associate (MHA) (1-2 per shift)
- Social Worker (7a-7p)
- Peer Support (10a-10p)
- Transportation (7a-11p)
- Registration (1 per shift)
- Security (1 per shift)

UKHC EmPATH Outcomes

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- ★ 76% Stabilized and return to outpatient services
- ★ 93% Diversion from state hospital
- ★ 8% reduction in hospital census

Outpatient Follow up

Pre EmPATH
29%

Post EmPATH
65%

- Pre-EmPATH ED visits = 5.55 (Avg)
- Post-EmPATH ED visits = **0.438** (Avg) → **92.1% reduction!**
- Post-EmPATH Return to EmPATH = **2.025** (Avg) → **63.5% reduction!**
- >13% reduction in 30-day hospital readmissions
- >2500 Hours of clinical care BACK to bedside
- Annualized, >\$200,000 in sitter savings

Scaling the Model: What Comes Next?

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- CAMS-BI suicide prevention
- On-site LAI Clinic
- Exploring IOP integration specific to suicide prevention
- Narcan Distribution
- QPR Training
- Program Development- Community partners led groups daily to highlight community services and facilitate connections.

Difference Makers

- Culture of TREATMENT vs Assessment
- The ability to see a provider within 30 minutes or less 24/7
- Ability to begin therapeutic dose of medication shortly after arrival
- Ability to move some patients to SUD residential treatment directly from EmPATH, unlike ED services
- Reduction in BH patients residing throughout UKHC
- Residential facilities and community stakeholders willing to collaborate to connect to this system of care.
- Certified Peer Support Specialists- the ability to connect with “lived experience” is invaluable.



Recent Awards

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NAMI Pioneer Award 2024



National EmPATH Team of the Year 2025



THE HOPE CENTER

Jeff Crook, CEO of The Hope Center

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

June 3, 2025











Building Details

- **18,674 sf in total over two floors**
- **72 Beds (32 for Veterans, 40 for Supportive Housing)**
- **Funding for building: \$2M LFUCG ARPA, \$1.5M VA, \$3.3M HC**

Timeframe for Opening

- **Projected Opening was 4/01/25**
- **Pipe burst in the building in the middle of the night on 3/20/25**
- **Estimated damages at more than \$1M**
- **Insurance to cover this but the delay for repairs and replacement has moved the anticipated opening to 7/01/25**

Veteran's Housing

- **Veteran's Transitional Housing**
 - 20 single occupancy units with private bathrooms
 - 8-person unit with common area, private bathroom
 - 4-person unit with common area, private bathroom
- **Bridge Housing for Veterans who are waiting to move into a permanent unit or who are in the process of working with VA Housing**
- **Service-Intensive Programs for veterans who may need higher levels of mental health, employment support or substance use services while working towards housing**

Supportive Transitional Housing

- **Housing Support for Emergency Shelter**
 - Assistance with housing documentation, searching and applying
 - Life Skills education focused on independent living and maintaining housing
 - Ongoing case management
- **Mental Health Services (individuals, groups, life skills)**
- **Substance Use Services (individuals, groups, peer support)**

COMMITTEE ITEMS REFERRED

Social Services and Public Safety

Referral Item	Current Sponsor	Date Referred	Last Presentation	Status	Legistar File ID
1 Crime Reduction Technology	W. Baxter	September 21, 2021	May 2, 2023		1065-22
2 Assessment and Enforcement of Noise Ordinance	D. Gray	July 5, 2022	August 22, 2023		0840-23
3 Eviction Diversion & Right to Counsel	D. Wu	January 24, 2023	July 2, 2024		0702-24
4 Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement	D. Gray/S. Lynch	June 29, 2023	February 25, 2025		0204-25
5 Coordinated Victim Response Plan	L. Sheehan	May 2, 2023			
6 Villages Model Initiatives for Lexington	S. Lynch	August 20, 2024	October 8, 2024		1008-24
7 Youth Council	D. Gray	August 20, 2024			
8 Homeless Encampment Response and Street Outreach Services for OHPI	J. Reynolds	September 17, 2024	February 25, 2025		0203-25
9 Review of Fayette County Sheriff's Office	D. Gray	October 8, 2024	April 15, 2025		
10 CASA Update	D. Wu	January 28, 2025	February 25, 2025		0202-25
11 EmPATH Center Update	L. Sheehan	January 28, 2025		June 3, 2025	0543-25
12 Review of Sober Living Ordinance	T. Morton	February 11, 2025	April 15, 2025		0350-25
Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition	D. Gray	March 4, 2025	April 15, 2025		0239-24
Strategic Growth Plan for Lexington Fire Department	J. Hale/T. Morton	March 18, 2025			
Annual/Periodic Updates					
13 Substance Use Disorder Intervention (SUDI) Update	J. Reynolds	January 12, 2022	May 14, 2024	June 3, 2025	0532-24
14 Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (OHPI) Update	J. Reynolds	June 7, 2022	September 17, 2024		0901-22
15 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Update	D. Gray	February 20, 2018	September 17, 2024		0360-22
16 Office of Affordable Housing Initiatives and Projects Update	D. Gray	August 10, 2021	November 12, 2024		1026-21
17 Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Public Safety Update	J. Reynolds/ W. Baxter	September 22, 2020	July 2, 2024		0450-21
18 Community Paramedicine Program Update	J. Reynolds	July 6, 2021	January 28, 2025		0300-23
19 Review of Code Enforcement	J. Reynolds	October 8, 2019	June 13, 2023		0814-22
20 ONE Lexington Programs Update	J. Reynolds	September 25, 2020	January 21, 2025 (Work Session)		0080-23
21 Hope Center Expansion Project Update	S. Lynch	September 12, 2024	November 12, 2024	June 3, 2025	1139-24
22 Family Services Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	January 28, 2025		0109-25
23 Partners for Youth Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	January 28, 2025		0110-25

Updated 04.15.25, KJT