

STAR “Advisory Committee”

Proposed Structure and Bylaws

BACKGROUND

Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) is a program launched on June 1, 2020 to implement an alternative to a traditional 911 option, especially for calls that involve mental health crisis, substance use, and homelessness. It was created from a WORKGROUP that convened in June 2019 to envision such a program following a visit to Eugene, Oregon. Following the launch of the pilot program, Denver Alliance for Street Health Response (DASHR) and Jason Vitello were chosen by the group to continue facilitation of the program and to envision expansion after the pilot. In August 2020, the 60+ person workgroup agreed to meet quarterly for updates and to form an EXPANSION COMMITTEE to envision expansion for the STAR program beyond its pilot. The expansion committee drafted a CHARTER of agreed values and suggestions for the expansion. One suggestion that was agreed upon was the creation of an advisory committee that was composed of community members to serve as an accountability mechanism for the STAR program. This document is the start of a set of bylaws to accompany the CHARTER as a proposal for the advisory committee. The EXPANSION COMMITTEE came to a consensus agreement on this document on February 2, 2021.

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. Name

The name of this body - which could become “advisory committee” , “board” , or “community nexus” or a number of names has not been determined. It is further referenced as “advisory committee” for now as a placeholder for what the name may eventually be.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Composition

The advisory committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members; one person from each city council district and four members who serve as “at-large” representation. The committee will include and prioritize BIPOC membership and members of the LGBTQ and disability community and people with lived experience. The members must live in Denver.

Section 3. Foundational membership

The initial advisory committee will consist of volunteers from the expansion committee to the STAR program. Volunteers will then review and vote to add additional members based on nominations, ensuring full city representation and considering the priority of experiences and identities. It is critical that historical knowledge of the program and the

process to create STAR from the foundation as a way to maintain fidelity to the “Northstar” envisioned over the course of the eighteen month process to create and expand STAR.

Section 4. Additional members

Members to the advisory committee shall be added through a nomination process. Individuals may be self-nominated or be nominated by other individuals. Requirements for nominations will include that they live in Denver and individuals will be prioritized based on lived experience and identities necessary to shape a diverse committee. Positions will be filled in accordance with gaps in council district representation with at-large seats filled thereafter. Current members of the advisory committee will review and approve applicants in consultation with DDPHE and formal offers will be extended to those who meet the needs of the advisory committee. Individuals who are invited to join the advisory committee shall file a formal acceptance of membership to the committee. It is noted that this body is responsible for making decisions about additional membership as one of the key values of the CHARTER is “Community-Driven Control”, because the expansion committee carries conflicts of interest, and because the larger workgroup does not have membership that has been formally defined. The application to nominate or self-nominate shall live with DDPHE.

Section 5. Terms

Each member will serve a term of four (4) years, with a maximum three (3) terms (twelve years total). If a member steps down before their term is over, they are charged with providing three individuals for consideration to replace them. This will include members who move out of the district they represent (unless they are an at-large member). Should a member vacate their seat due to death or other unforeseen circumstances that prevent them from nominating a replacement, the seat will open for public nomination. These terms shall be staggered as two years of service for their first terms will be applied to the first five members.

ARTICLE III: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 6. Duties Outlined for Committee

- Accountability and ensuring fidelity of the STAR program to its CHARTER
- Public outreach and awareness about STAR
- Reviewing and advising on RFP’s. This still needs to be defined and determined with DDPHE
- Liaison for media and other cities inquiring about the program in partnership with DDPHE and DOS

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 7. Purpose of Meetings

All members of the advisory committee meeting shall be required to attend all meetings unless otherwise unable due to reasonable circumstances. The advisory committee will have three main functions of their meetings with an additional meeting with DDPHE:

- Data and evaluation tracking for the STAR program
- Qualitative tracking and ensuring fidelity to CHARTER
- Public awareness, updates, and receiving input regarding STAR program
- Aligning with DDPHE

Section 8. Schedule

- The committee will have one meeting per month, each meeting to serve a different function.
- The first meeting of each quarter (January, April, July, and October) will be focused on data tracking and evaluation in coordination with the city and DDPHE.
- The second meeting of each quarter (February, May, August, November) will focus on the qualitative perspective of the program and ensuring its adherence to the CHARTER.
- The third meeting of each quarter (March, June, September, December) will be public meetings to share with the community updates about the program.
- Additionally, the advisory committee will have one meeting per year with DDPHE to achieve alignment and strategy for the year.