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Community Development Committee

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Agency: [Cuyahoga County Council](#)

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Summary

- MetroHealth is looking for American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding to expand the behavioral health emergency department with focus on adolescent care.
- MetroHealth is also looking for ARPA funding for improving outside areas, specifically on W. 25th Street.
- This seemed like a relatively short meeting.

Follow-Up Questions

- Are the Community Development Committee meetings usually longer?
- How much ARPA funding is there?

Notes

There was a [quorum](#).

No public comment.

Meeting minutes from July 8 meeting approved.

Resolution 2024-0269 would award a total sum not to exceed \$350,000 of ARPA money to MetroHealth System for behavioral health facility upgrades in emergency department.

-Jim Bicak, senior VP for facilities, construction and campus transformation at MetroHealth, and Joseph Frolik, senior VP for communications, government and community relations, presented.

-MetroHealth is proposing improvements because the emergency room is often very busy and has not been updated in quite awhile.

-Improving safety and security for both the patients and the staff is a goal, as is the adult and adolescent health areas.

-Adolescent areas specifically need the most improvement.

-Includes improvement inside rooms to create a more safe and secure

environment and separating adolescents from general population of emergency department

-Will take a few months to plan and several more months to execute.

Question from Council Member and Committee Chair Cheryl Stephens: When you talk about separating the adult patients from the juvenile patients, how many rooms are you talking about?

Bicak: Three rooms.

Stephens: Do you have staff with specialized training?

Bicak: Yes, the staff are behavioral health training and specifically focused on adolescents.

Question from Council Member Dale Miller: What is the projected total project cost for this upgrade?

Bicak: MetroHealth is looking at spending more than \$6 million for the entire emergency department, but this specific project is not to exceed \$350,000.

Miller: Why would we need to provide ARPA money when we give MetroHealth millions a year?

Stephens: Because I wanted to see these young people taken care of sooner than later. We spend more time sending young people to jail instead of trying to be proactive early when they first exhibit problems.

Motion to move the resolution to full body of council.

Resolution 2024-0270 would award a total sum not to exceed \$150,000 to MetroHealth System for W. 25th Street Park Improvements Project from District 10 ARPA fund.

Bicak and Frolik presented

-Want to use these spaces for visitor, staff, and community use.

-Would allow for improvements on W. 25th side to start as it is very open to the street.

-Want a buffer between path and street that creates a better environment for people to gather.

Stephens: Will this area be more pedestrian friendly (and include seating)?

Bicak: Yes, in addition to planters, we're focused on amenities, such as furniture and shaded areas, and connecting the different areas via pathways.

Moved to full council.

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