

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 1/4/2022 2:35:42 PM
To: 'Polly McDaniel' <pmcdaniel@ashevillenc.gov>, 'Debra Campbell' <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: 'Dawa Hitch' <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft response to WLOS regarding overdoses at Ramada

This response is great. I would just delete the sentence I highlighted below. I think the response implies our confidence in Sunrise given the challenge they're up against. I assume you will send this to Kim King?

From: Polly McDaniel <pmcdaniel@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:35 AM
To: Mayor Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>; Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: Dawa Hitch <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Draft response to WLOS regarding overdoses at Ramada

Good morning Esther,

You will recall the Dec. 31 inquiry made by Kim King below. On Monday, working with Emily Ball, Dawa and Debra, we drafted a response. Since the reporter directed the inquiry to Debra and you as well, we wanted to give you an opportunity to review this draft response.

Kim King inquiry, 12/13:

From: **Kimberly King** <kmking@sbgvtv.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 31, 2021, 10:30 AM
Subject: 6 overdoses ramada request for comment
To: emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com <emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com>, Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>

Good Morning Mayor and Ms. Campbell,

I appreciate you emailing me a statement Wednesday. A public records request returned shows the Ramada Inn Shelter contracted with Sunrise by the city has had, from my initial review, at least 6 overdoses, two deaths, and several "suicide attempts." Please respond to the following questions as leaders of the city. Kindly respond to each question in a different color underneath the question for clarity. I'm doing a noon report on these reports.

I'm writing again to you both directly as you hold the top leadership positions in Asheville City Government and this is a city crisis that calls for leadership from the top. Residents have shared with me across the city that they wish to hear directly from both of you in person, and your vision to handle the crisis that impacts so many including those dying. I know you regularly speak with APD Chief David Zack. While Chief Zack has provided transparency and multiple sit-down interviews with us along with other APD officers like Captain Michael Lamb on the crisis, we respectfully again request you talk with us as well. If you again wish to decline my standing requests to talk with both of you in person, please respond with answers.

Draft response:

City staff work closely with Sunrise staff and are aware of these incidents. City staff were deeply saddened to learn the news of the most recent overdose death at the Ramada in December.

These unfortunate outcomes amplify the harsh realities of drug addiction and the need for comprehensive services to address the opioid crisis. The City of Asheville remains steadfast in our commitment to serve those in need through collaborative efforts with service providers.

Sunrise Community for Recovery & Wellness is a peer support organization with a primary focus on supporting people in moving out of addiction and into

recovery. Peer support is an evidence-based model used as a primary strategy in responding to substance use disorders, and through their time operating non-congregate shelter, Sunrise has facilitated connections for 39 participants to either detox or substance use treatment.

City staff meet with Sunrise staff multiple times weekly to discuss overall shelter operations, including housing plans for each participant as operations wind down. Sunrise staff conduct room checks twice a week as well as regular wellness checks on residents. Based on the recent rash of overdoses across the community, wellness checks now occur daily for each resident.

We are comfortable with Sunrise continuing to run the shelter at the Ramada. People participating in this shelter initiative were all previously unsheltered, where the risk of overdose, death, and other critical safety concerns (e.g. assault or sexual assault) was significantly higher. Shelter is a harm reduction strategy; when people with severe clinical needs are sheltered, they are more likely to engage in services and their health and safety, along with the health and safety of the community as a whole, are improved. Overdoses are not a result of shelter; they are occurring across our community, regardless of housing status, as a result of the opioid epidemic.

In addition to 39 connections to substance use services, Sunrise has supported 36 people in accessing employment and slated 21 people for permanent housing programs.

Polly McDaniel

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