

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-4018

COUNCIL SPONSOR: FALCONER/BRISTER PROVIDED BY: LEGAL DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUTHORITY, PURSUANT TO HOME RULE CHARTER, SECTIONS 1-04, 3-01 AND 3-09, FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC. FOR A SUICIDE CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish has experienced a spike in suicides over several prior years. To reduce the incidents of suicide, Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans, Inc. ("VOA") has developed a Crisis Response Program, which is a working partnership between first responders and the mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the Crisis Response Program optimizes the collaboration between first responders and the mental health care system to improve the care of persons in crisis. Crisis Response Counselors are on call 24/7 to assess and intervene in reports of mental crisis received by the 911 system; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a suicide crisis event, VOA's Crisis Response Counselor will arrive at the scene to make a determination of the mental health status of the individual. This will allow for intervention, counseling and family consultation in order to decrease the risk of suicide or repeat suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, in an event where hospital admission has occurred, the VOA's Crisis Response Counselor will conduct follow-up visits after discharge, both in person and via telephone. The Crisis Response Counselor will conduct a full mental health assessment for the individual and assist in coordinating counseling, therapy and/or institutional care; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish has enacted a Public Health Tax. Funding initiatives for suicide prevention falls within the Public Health Tax Proposition.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that St. Tammany Parish, through the Office of the Parish President, pursuant to Home Rule Charter, Sections 1-04, 3-01 and 3-09, is authorized to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, which meets or exceeds all of the requirements of Louisiana law and jurisprudence, with Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans, Inc. for a suicide Crisis Response Program, and to take any and all actions necessary in support of same.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 3 DAY OF APRIL, 2014, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

R. REID FALCONER, AIA, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

Resolution Administrative Comment

RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO HOME RULE CHARTER SECTIONS 1-04, 3-01 AND 3-09 FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC. FOR A SUICIDE CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM.

St. Tammany Parish Government is seeking to enter into a new Cooperative Endeavor Agreement commencing in 2014 in order to continue the Crisis Response Program funding originating from a 2011 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Funding source is the public health tax, and funding for the 2014 calendar year is \$500,000.