

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

BACKGROUND:

City Council has a goal to implement City programs and initiatives that educate, train, and engage the community around mental and physical wellness. Program and initiatives will involve partnerships amongst City departments as well as community partners.

The first initiative is a series of six Community Conversations covering topics such as suicide, mental health system/resources, resiliency, drug abuse, civility in conversations. The Community Conversations will be offered October 2022 through April 2023 and are free and open to the public.

The first Community Conversation is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2022 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium at Ames Public Library. The topic is suicide and partners include the Ames Public Library, Ames Police Department, Mary Greeley Medical Center, Iowa State University, YSS, NAMI of Central Iowa, Ames Community School District and Gilbert Community School District.

The City Council is being asked to appropriate up to \$5,000 from Council Contingency to help cover costs associated with the Community Conversations (supplies, advertising, printing, possible speaker fees, etc). The outcome of these educational offerings is to provide information and education that positively impacts the physical, emotional, and mental health well-being to individuals of all ages in our community.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve up to \$5,000 in Council Contingency funds to help cover costs associated with the Community Conversations.
2. Do not approve the funding.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City Council supported the Mental Health Wellness, Recovery, and Resiliency initiative in 2021 by approving funds that provided education and training to over 100 people in Mental Health First Aid. Community Conversations will continue to help address the mental health needs in the community with connecting people to education and resource information.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No.1, as described stated above.