

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: August 9, 2018

Item Number: 026

Municipal Court

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center dba Integral Care for consultation services for the Travis County Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for a 12-month period beginning September 1, 2018.

Fiscal Note	Funding for this agreement in the amount of \$25,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget for the Municipal Court.
Prior Council Action	On September 11, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 20170911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget.
For More Information	Peter Valdez, Court Administrator for DACC, 512-974-4873; Robert Kingham, Contract Management Specialist for DACC, 512-974-1394.

Additional Backup Information:

The Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) was established in 1999. It was the eighth community court established in the United States, and the first established in Texas. The purpose of the DACC is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders. The court operates as a problem solving and rehabilitative court and provides referrals to supportive services for offenders. A majority of the offenses adjudicated through DACC are committed by defendants who are homeless and/or individuals with behavioral health disorders, and a disproportionate number of offenses are committed by a small number of

defendants who cycle through the criminal justice system at a high cost to all community services systems.

The DACC has been an active partner with the Travis County Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (BHCJAC) since its inception. The BHCJAC is a collaborative association of Travis County criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders with the mission to develop and sustain a planning partnership to support individuals with behavioral health needs and promote justice and public safety. The BHCJAC has adopted a set of guiding principles premised on the shared value that the behavioral health care needs of individuals in our community are not best addressed through the traditional criminal justice system, jail or prison. The BHCJAC upholds the principle that the dignity and rights of individuals with behavioral health disorders are safeguarded by seeking alternative solutions to traditional criminal justice responses.

Funding for this shared investment with Integral Care, Central Health and Travis County is intended to ensure broad community benefit is obtained and expert consultation will assist the BHCJAC to:

- Develop a community “dashboard.” This dashboard will be comprised of key metrics, including the four national “Stepping Up” initiative metrics: 1) Jail Bookings; 2) Jails Length of Stay; 3) Connections to Treatment; 4) Recidivism. This dashboard will be used to ensure relevant data informs the BHCJAC in its advisory and planning roles.
- Develop a local data sharing agreement which will allow Travis County, City of Austin, Integral Care and Central Health to share data relevant to creating and maintaining the community dashboard. This data agreement will be broad enough to encompass evaluation and other collaborative projects as they arise.
- Provide an analysis of return on investment which includes qualitative measures such as the health consequences in utility-weighted units called quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs). QALYs also incorporate costs averted when known. Analysis of value of investment would be based on economic evaluation principles that identify, measure, and value the relevant costs and consequences of two or more alternatives. Typically, one alternative is a specific program or intervention while the second is “business as usual”. Cost-utility analysis measures the cost of the program in dollars and the health consequences in utility-weighted units.