



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3131, **Agenda Item #:** 139.

9/19/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 2 to the interlocal agreement with the Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center D/B/A Integral Care for the Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team, which offers a first response team for mental health crises in collaboration with City first responders, to add four 12-month renewal options beginning October 1, 2019, with the first renewal option in an amount not to exceed \$1,749,229 and the three remaining renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$1,915,229, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$8,642,145.

Lead Department

Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding for this amendment in the amount of \$1,749,229 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Downtown Austin Community Court.

Prior Council Action:

On December 13, 2018, Council approved Item No. 20181212-015 authorizing negotiation and execution of this interlocal agreement.

For More Information:

Peter Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court (512) 974-4873; Robert Kingham, Operations Manager, Downtown Austin Community Court (512) 974-1394.

Additional Backup Information:

The Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (EMCOT) works with the City of Austin first responders to divert jail bookings and emergency department (ED) admissions, and provide short-term community-based interventions to stabilize a person in a psychiatric crisis and link these individuals to Integral Care services or other appropriate care. The team also follows up with individuals to offer treatment and access to services through Integral Care and/or other community-based providers. EMCOT consists of licensed mental health professionals and medical providers who operate with a high level of autonomy in a community-based setting, review current medications, prescribe medications, and exercise clinical judgement.

Disposition options for law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are costly to the system, traumatizing for the individual, unnecessarily restrictive, and can include emergency detention, arrest, and/or transport to the nearest emergency department. Additionally, these dispositions can interrupt or conflict with an individual's existing mental health treatment plan and break the continuity of care. Arrest dispositions are especially disruptive to an individual's ongoing treatment because Medicaid coverage is suspended until the individual is released.

The goal of EMCOT is to address these issues in three ways:

- 1) Release the officer or paramedic from the scene within 15 minutes on average
- 2) Perform evidenced-based crisis assessments including risk to harm self/others

3) Link the individual to the most appropriate level of care and/or ensure continuity of care

On September 10, 2019 City Council adopted a budget which included \$1,749,229 of funding for Integral Care to continue the EMCOT program and implement program expansions including telehealth deployment and mental health integrated dispatch. Approval of this item will allow Integral Care to continue the EMCOT program and begin work on expanding the EMCOT program once the first renewal option begins on October 1st.

FY19 Performance Measures:**Outputs :**

	Goal	FY19 (Q1-Q3)
Number of unduplicated clients served	1,512	1,108
Number of referrals that resulted in dispatch to the individual's location	2,700	1,321

Outcomes :

Percent of clients who were diverted from arrest	99%	99.8%
Percent of clients who were diverted from emergency department	75%	77.2%
Percent of clients linked to Integral Care services	68%	48.6%

The Original Interlocal Agreement with Integral Care for EMCOT Services was approved by the City Council on December 13, 2018. Amendment 1 to the Interlocal Agreement modified a performance measure in order to capture data on instances when Integral Care is not able to respond to a request for assistance. This Amendment 2 will add four 12 month renewal options and increase the City's funding to Integral Care for EMCOT Services, beginning on October 1, 2019, by \$260,000 pursuant to the FY20 Budget adopted by the City Council on September 10, 2019.