




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Peter Valdez, Court Administrator 
Downtown Austin Community Court

DATE: September 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Clarification Memo for Item #20201001-10 – Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team

The October 1st City Council agenda includes an item for the Mayor and Council's consideration to authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 4 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 (EMCOT) to increase funding for the three remaining renewal options by \$1,350,000 per renewal option, for a total increase in an amount of \$4,050,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$12,692,145. EMCOT offers a first response team for mental health crises in collaboration with City first responders.

A section of the Additional Backup Information section states, "This additional funding that was included in the approved FY 2020-21 Budget will help fully implement the recommendations from the Meadows Report related to mental health response. The additions will include expanding the staff to ensure 24/7 access, increasing access to telehealth resources by deploying 500 tablets to first responders, which provides access to one full-time Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatrist to bring specialty psychiatric care to people in the community." DACC would like to add the following sentence at the end of that paragraph: "The goal for the first year is that at least 75% of all appropriate calls will be diverted to an alternative care focused response."

DACC is requesting this additional language to clarify an anticipated outcome that will benefit the community. Outcomes will be tracked through multiple types of diversions in our emergency response system, as well as diverted responses from the 911 call center. This program benefit reflects the purpose of these services and is specific to the increase in funding related to expanded service hours and increased telehealth access for first responders and the residents of Austin they serve.

xc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
Jannette Goodall, City Clerk
Anne Morgan, City Attorney