



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1458, Agenda Item #: 6.

3/24/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 3 to the interlocal agreement with Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center d/b/a Integral Care for integrated mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for eligible clients of the Downtown Austin Community Court, to add funding for the current term ending on September 30, 2022 and the two remaining 12-month renewal options, each in an amount not to exceed \$261,668, for a total revised agreement amount not to exceed \$3,502,139.

Lead Department

Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding for this agreement amendment in the amount of \$261,668 is included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of the Downtown Austin Community Court. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

On August 11, 2021, Council approved Ordinance No. 20210811-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget. On August 8, 2019, Council approved agenda item 20190808-019 approving negotiation and execution of a 12-month interlocal agreement with four 12-month renewal options with Integral Care.

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:

Long-term homelessness, physical and mental health issues, and substance use disorders are among the common challenges of the clients of the Homeless Services Division (HSD) at the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC). All of these factors serve as barriers to achieving stability, obtaining, and maintaining housing. When DACC was established in 1999, client engagement was conducted solely through the judicial process. DACC has evolved with community and population needs by expanding the HSD to receive walk-in clients and prioritizing Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) referrals. The HSD staff proactively seeks to reach clients through the implementation of outreach efforts, including collaboration with HOST and the Sobering Center, in order to engage individuals in intensive services, connect clients with supportive services, and locate permanent housing.

Services funded through this agreement support a program, known as "Road to Recovery," and will be provided to homeless individuals with high acuity, many of whom have a tri-occurring diagnosis: mental health, chronic medical, and substance use diagnoses. Road to Recovery uses an integrated mental health and substance use disorder treatment program in a residential setting where the appropriate level of care for clients is determined using a validated risk assessment tool. All assessments and treatment modalities use evidence-based methodologies to determine individualized treatment plans based on the referred client's needs, risks, and required level of care. Care provided to clients include individual treatment planning,

psychotherapeutic and pharmacologic support services, rehabilitative skills training, case management, peer support services and other services for individuals with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health disorders.

Approval of this item will authorize DACC to negotiate and execute Amendment #3 to the agreement with Integral Care with additional funding to cover the costs associated with extending care from 90 days to up to 180 days. The benefit from this is two-fold, in that some individuals need longer time in treatment to meet their recovery needs, and this also provides a longer period of time to identify a long-term housing solution so that program participants are not returning to homelessness upon completion of the treatment program. Additionally, this amendment will fund several hours a week of access to a physician assistant's (PA) time, which will be allocated for clients served through DACC's Homeless Services Division, who are not being served by other Road to Recovery services. The PA will serve as a provider for clients referred by DACC, providing mental health, addiction management, and medical services within the scope of licensing, training, and credentialing. Services can include completion of psychiatric evaluations and ordering of medications, labs, and other diagnostic tests, and arranging follow up care.

Amendment #2 exercised the second 12-month renewal option beginning October 1, 2021 for 543,427.
Amendment #1 exercised the first 12-month renewal option beginning October 1, 2020 for \$543,427.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.