



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2698, Agenda Item #: 4.

9/1/2022

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 Homeless Health and Wellness Center program, which offers behavioral health services integrated with primary care, to extend the current term of the agreement to December 31, 2024 and to increase funding in the amount of \$1,320,252, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,890,725.

Lead Department

Community Court.

Fiscal Note

Funding for this agreement is included in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of the Downtown Austin Community Court.

Prior Council Action:

December 2, 2021 - Council approved Item No. 20211202-003 authorizing the negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the interlocal agreement.

August 12, 2021 - Council approved Ordinance 20210811-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City Budget, which included additional funding for the interlocal agreement.

December 3, 2020 - Council approved Item No. 20201203-048 directing the City Manager to support a partnership between Downtown Austin Community Court, the Homeless Outreach Street Team, and Integral Care for expanded behavioral health resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, to identify available resources for expanding behavioral health programs, and to return with the appropriate items to authorize funding these programs.

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:

This program has expanded upon Integral Care's (IC) continuum of services ranging from outreach and engagement to permanent housing by increasing access to specialty mental health, substance use treatment and primary care for individuals experiencing homelessness. Individuals that have the highest needs and greatest vulnerabilities on DACC's waitlist for Intensive Case Management and those identified and referred by the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) are prioritized for services.

In the first annual period, this program was collaboratively funded through IC, Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA), and DACC. IC has committed to support the operations of the 3000 Oak Springs Clinic through grants from Health and Human Services Commission and Episcopal Health Foundation. In April 2022, the DAA notified IC that they were reducing funding for the program for the current agreement period, and did not plan

to provide funding for future years for the program.

Approval of this funding would allow DACC to support continuation of this program at the current operational level for the current agreement period and for two additional years. If this funding is not approved, individuals currently receiving intensive, person-centered and housing-focused case management services will lose access to these services, and the current capacity to provide these services within the community will be reduced.

As of July 2022, DACC had a waitlist of over 250 individuals for Intensive Case Management. This IC program meets a critical unmet need with the capacity to provide intensive case management and rehabilitation services for up to 100 individuals at a time. Additional referrals can be made by HOST and DACC as individuals served obtain housing and achieve stability.

Amendment No. 1 enabled the DACC to continue the agreement for a Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team managed by Integral Care (IC), based out of the Terrace at Oak Springs Clinic, for an additional 12-month period beginning January 1, 2022.

DACC recommends continuing to fund the annual costs needed to sustain this Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team, which in turn supports the growing need of individuals experiencing homelessness and expand access to care. Funding for future years is contingent on City Council approval.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.