

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: December 13, 2018

Item Number: **015**

Municipal Court

Authorize negotiation, execution and ratification of an interlocal agreement with Travis County and 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, for a 12-month term beginning October 1, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$1,147,229.

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| Lead Department | Municipal Court |
| Fiscal Note | Funding for this agreement in the amount of \$1,147,229 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department. |
| Prior Council Action | On September 11, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 20180911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget. |
| For More Information | Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department (512) 974-5030; 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. 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

Anticipated performance measures include:

Outputs:

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| Number of unduplicated clients served | 2,525 |
| Number of referrals that resulted in dispatch to the individual’s location | 4,500 |
| Number of first responders who received training from EMCOT | 500 |

Outcomes:

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| Percent of clients who were diverted from arrest | 99% |
| Percent of clients who were diverted from emergency department | 75% |
| Percent of clients linked to Integral Care services | 70% |