



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3088, **Agenda Item #:** 27.

10/1/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas, to fully implement the recommendations from the Meadows Report related to mental health response, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

City Manager's Office.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the Municipal Court.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

Prior Council Action:

January 31, 2019 - City Council authorized a contract for first response to mental health incidents which was approved on a 10-0 vote, with Council Member Flannigan absent.

August 13, 2020 - City Council approved the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget which included funding to fully implement the recommendations from the Meadows Report related to mental health response.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Erin D'Vincent at 512-974-3070 or erin.dvincent@austintexas.gov <<mailto:erin.dvincent@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

During the approval for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget process, the City Council approved \$2.7 million to be directed towards fully implementing the recommendations from the Meadows Report related to mental health response. Of this amount, \$1.4 million is focused toward expanding and enhancing the Integral Care-EMCOT contract for clinical staff and telehealth services and \$225,000 is directed toward community outreach to underserved communities, program implementation, and interagency coordination. The remaining \$1.1

million is redirected to expand the mental health diversion initiative within the Community Health Paramedic Program by adding seven new positions and necessary equipment.

City Council requested the City Manager execute a contract with a project manager to implement the program commissioned from the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas (MMHPI) ("Recommendations for First Responder Mental Health Calls for Service", May 15, 2019, MMHPI), which was initially adopted and funded by the Council in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. City Council requested the following criteria for the project manager:

1. The project manager shall analyze data, set an implementation schedule, establish goals and report to City Council. The report will focus on achieving Council's goals, including establishing the earliest date by which 100% of all calls with a mental health component which do not pose a risk to public safety shall be diverted from a law enforcement response.
2. The project manager shall coordinate the full implementation of an alternative response to behavioral crisis emergency calls as found in the MMHPI report - The project manager shall be responsible for optimizing program processes, procedures and achievement of goals.
3. The project manager shall participate in meetings, as requested by the City Manager, to develop community input for implementation of the recommendations from the MMHPI May 2019 report.
4. The project manager shall regularly track and report to City Council and the community the program's progress, achievement of goals, and any additional resources needed to timely achieve goals.
5. The project manager may utilize the work of the City's Innovation Office and/or consult with the Dell Medical School data exchange experts.

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas is being hired to fully implement the recommendations from their report and the aforementioned criteria. This agency has a deep understanding of the program, the community work involved in developing it, and experience working with the City and other cities in developing recommendations to redesign first response programs.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety; Government that Works for All; Health and Environment.