

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in May of 2019, the Downtown Austin Alliance convened providers to identify gaps and redundancies in our community's behavioral health response and continuum of care system; and

WHEREAS, the key priorities that emerged from this process included increasing capacity to lower wait times for behavioral health services, developing the ability to transport clients to the right resource, providing shelter for individuals waiting for housing, and increasing diversion from the legal system; and

WHEREAS, according to Integral Care, our community's lead mental ~~behavioral~~ health authority, more than 65% of individuals experiencing homelessness reported to Integral Care that they experience co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, Integral Care and the Downtown Austin Alliance have crafted a proposal to expand outreach and assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness who are in need of behavioral health resources; and

WHEREAS, in the proposal from Integral Care and the Downtown Austin Alliance, individuals identified by the Homelessness Outreach Street Team (HOST) and the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) would be referred to a Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team managed by Integral Care and based out of the Terrace at Oak Springs Clinic; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Terrace at Oak Springs Clinic specializes in providing care to
22 individuals experiencing homelessness who also experience chronic health conditions,
23 substance use, or behavioral health issues; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team
25 would include five dedicated full-time employees to provide intensive case management
26 and housing navigation and one clinical psychiatrist to provide services to individuals
27 referred to the facility by HOST and DACC; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Integral Care estimates that the proposed Specialty Intensive
29 Integrated Management Treatment Team could treat between 150 and 175 individuals
30 annually; and

31 **WHEREAS**, as the draft budget in Exhibit A indicates, the proposal requires a
32 financial commitment of a little more than \$500,000 each fiscal year; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Austin Alliance will commit \$260,000 ~~\$170,000~~ in
34 one-time funding to this proposal for the first year, with the possibility of a recurring
35 contribution if needed; and

36 **WHEREAS**, our current homelessness response system cannot meet the demand
37 for behavioral health treatment by those experiencing homelessness, and additional
38 funding is warranted; and

WHEREAS, a partnership such as the Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team will leverage city funds to provide critical resources to our unhoused neighbors; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to support the proposed collaboration between the DACC, HOST, and Integral Care and to identify any unencumbered funds that could help fund the Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team.

The City Manager is directed to provide an update regarding available funding to Council no later than December 8, 2020, and, if funding is found, return with the appropriate items to authorize this funding by December 10, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify potential partners and available resources to expand this program to individuals experiencing homelessness in areas of the city outside the downtown area. The City Manager is directed to provide this information to Council no later than January 5, 2021.

ADOPTED: _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City clerk