



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1991, **Agenda Item #:** 59.

5/20/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Austin/Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation, d/b/a Integral Care, to provide substance misuse services to low-income individuals in Austin, in an amount not to exceed \$229,924 for the 10-month term ending on March 31, 2022 and for each three 12-month extension options, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$919,696.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$229,924 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Integral Care to provide substance misuse services to low-income individuals in Austin in an amount not to exceed \$229,924 for the 10-month term ending March 31, 2022 and for each three 12-month extension options, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$919,696. All extension options are conditional upon Council's approval of future budgets.

This agreement was a result of a competitive request for applications released on December 18, 2020 titled "Request for Applications #001 Substance Misuse Services 2021 NPS." The competition sought qualified social service providers with demonstrated experience providing services to individuals who engage in substance misuse. Interventions will be aligned with the principles of harm reduction at the outset, with the goal to increase access to substance misuse treatment and harm reduction strategies. Five agencies submitted applications and Austin Public Health is recommending award to CommUnity Care, Texas Harm Reduction, and Integral Care.

Integral Care will provide access to a comprehensive substance misuse service continuum of care that is recovery-oriented, culturally affirming, and trauma informed, to persons who have traditional barriers to access. Also, the program will increase care continuity and coordination for clients. Integral Care will partner with the Sobering Center to provide intervention, access and referrals to vital, life-saving substance misuse services and treatment. Eligible clients accessing services at the Sobering Center will be screened, assessed and referred to Integral Care. Eligible clients may include individuals who are experiencing homelessness, are at risk of involvement with the justice system, represent historically underserved communities, or are under- or uninsured. Integral Care will provide the full scope of comprehensive and integrated services, including individual and group counseling services, medical and psychiatric care, psychoeducation, as well as case-management services focused on enrollment in benefits programs and referrals for sustainable permanent housing.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget adoption process, Council Member Casar put forth a budget amendment that provided one-time funding in the amount of \$350,000 and ongoing funding in the amount of \$650,000, to fund the Substance Use Continuum of Care, stating:

“This budget proposal would expand harm reduction services through expanding/supporting drop-in centers and mobile outreach clinics for individuals in need of substance use treatment and care. Funding can support evening hours at drop-in center(s), substance use treatment for more individuals, and staffing and supplies for more mobile outreach clinics.”

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.