



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 21

**Agenda Date:** May 9, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Counseling Services Agreement for the San Antonio Metro Health District's Violence Prevention Section

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with Family Endeavors, Inc. dba Endeavors for counseling services for program participants and staff as part of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) SA Forward Plan for the Violence Prevention Section. The agreement is in an amount up to \$450,000.00 for a term ending on September 30, 2026, with options to renew for two, one-year terms, and a total contract value up to \$750,000.00, inclusive of renewals. Funding in the amount of \$150,000.000 is available in the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget and funds.

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute an amendment in the following circumstances: (A) an increase in contract funding in an amount not exceeding (a) twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount of this contract or (b) \$25,000.00, whichever is lesser amount; provided, however, that the cumulative total of all amendments increasing funding and executed without City Council approval pursuant to this subsection during the term of this contract shall not exceed the foregoing amount; (B) no cost extensions up to two (2) years; (C) budget adjustments

authorized by the funding agency so long as the total dollar amount of the budget remains unchanged; (D) modifications to the Scope of Work due to the adjustment described in subsection (A) of this Section or for any other reason, so long as the terms of the amendment are reasonably within the parameters set forth in the original Scope of Work.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The vision of Metro Health's Violence Prevention Section is to stop violence from happening before it starts. Violence Prevention staff are responsible for implementing a public health approach to violence prevention, focusing on building equitable, empowered communities to heal past harms and grow safe futures.

When gun violence occurs in a community, it can create a pervasive sense of fear, anxiety, and insecurity among residents. The overall quality of life in the community may decline, leading to social fragmentation and isolation. Addressing the outcomes of gun violence requires comprehensive efforts, including mental health support, community-based intervention programs and initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and inequality. It also emphasizes the importance of providing trauma-informed care and support to survivors and their families.

Stand Up SA is Metro Health's gun violence prevention program. Stand Up SA staff engages with youth and young adults between the ages of 5 to 24 that are exposed to some sort of violence. The staff works closely with each participant to convince them to reject the use of violence. Efforts also focus on enrolling high-risk youth into Stand Up SA's Case Management Program. The program connects at-risk individuals with resources, services, and support groups. Stand Up SA intervened in 186 situations last year alone, providing immediate assistance and long-term resources to those affected by firearm-related violence. In addition to offering mental health support, such as counseling, staff continuously work in communities to prevent violence by identifying and mediating conflicts and promoting non-violent solutions to conflicts. Metro Health recognizes the importance of addressing the emotional toll that gun violence takes on individuals and communities as well as the staff that take on these non-traditional roles to intervene in community violence.

Professional counseling services may lead to significant improvements in mental health and overall well-being for those witnessing and/or experiencing violence. Counseling services offer an opportunity for individuals to address grief, stress, or trauma, in addition to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), shock, and severe mental or physical pain. Counseling sessions provide a tailored and empathetic approach to address the unique challenges each individual faced as a result of witnessing or experiencing gun violence. A study published in the "Journal of Traumatic Stress" titled "Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services" by Harris M. et al. (2019) highlights the effectiveness of trauma-informed care in improving outcomes for individuals affected by various forms of trauma, including gun violence. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding the prevalence and impact of trauma, creating a supportive and nonjudgmental environment, and integrating trauma-specific interventions into counseling services.

Additionally, counseling services will help victims of domestic violence gain economic independence and rebuild their self-esteem. Counseling services can reduce repeat incidents of

domestic violence and generally empower victims and their families. Counseling sessions can provide a safe and confidential environment for survivors to express their feelings, thoughts and fears. Data show that all forms of violence have damaging short and long-term effects on the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of the victim, the families, and the community. Without this service, victims will not have the confidence to achieve safety and sustain self-empowerment when leaving an abusive relationship.

Monthly staff group counseling sessions have proven to be a valuable and integral component for the well-being of Violence Prevention Section staff. These sessions create a supportive environment for dedicated staff members to come together, share experiences, and address the unique challenges they face in their roles.

The City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for “Counseling Services for Violence Prevention” (RFP 23-134, 6100017313) on September 27, 2023, with a submission deadline of November 17, 2023. The RFP was advertised in the HartBeat Newspaper, TVSA channel, the City’s Bidding & Contracting Opportunities website, the San Antonio e-Procurement System (SAEPS) and an email notification was released to a list of potential Respondents. A total of four (4) firms responded to the RFP and were deemed eligible for review.

On December 19, 2023, the four (4) proposals were reviewed by the evaluation committee which included representatives from Metro Health. The Finance Department, Procurement Division assisted by ensuring compliance with City procurement policies and procedures. The evaluation of each proposal was based on a total of 100 points: 35 points were allotted for Experience, Background and Qualifications; 25 points were allotted for Proposed Plan; and 15 points were allotted for respondent’s Price Schedule. Five (5) preference points were allotted for the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program ESBE Prime Contract Program, five (5) preference points allotted for the SBEDA M/WBE Prime Contract Program; 10 points were allotted for the Local Preference Program and five (5) points were allotted for the Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program. Additional categories of consideration included references and financial qualifications. After committee review and evaluation, two (2) firms were recommended for interviews. Prior to interviews, one of the interviewees withdrew their proposal.

Interviews were held with the one (1) remaining eligible respondent on January 9, 2024. After committee review and evaluation, Family Endeavors, Inc., dba Endeavors was recommended for award by the evaluation committee based on consensus scoring.

## **ISSUE:**

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the execution of an agreement with Family Endeavors, Inc., dba Endeavors to provide counseling services to program participants and staff, to support violence prevention efforts implemented by Metro Health’s Stand Up SA and Domestic Violence programs in an amount up to \$450,000.00 for a term ending on September 30, 2026, with options to renew for two, one-year terms, and a total contract value up to \$750,000.00, inclusive of renewals. Funding is available in the General Fund in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget and funds.

This contract will be awarded in compliance with the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program. The Goal Setting Committee applied the Emerging Small Business Enterprise (ESBE) Prime Contract Program with five (5) evaluation preference points and the Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Prime Contract Program with five (5) evaluation preference points. Family Endeavors, Inc., dba Endeavors was not eligible to receive any of the specified points.

The Local Preference Program was applied in the evaluation of the responses received for the contract. The recommended firm, Family Endeavors, Inc., dba Endeavors, is a local business.

The Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program (VOSBPP) was applied in the evaluation of the responses received for the contract; however, the recommended firm is not a veteran-owned small business.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will need to seek an alternate means to provide counseling services to Stand Up SA and Domestic Violence program participants and staff which may result in service disruption.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with Family Endeavors, Inc., dba Endeavors for counseling services for Metro Health's Violence Prevention Section program participants and staff in an amount up to \$450,000.00 for a term ending on September 30, 2026, with options to renew for two, one-year terms, and a total contract value up to \$750,000.00, inclusive of renewals.

Funding is available in the General Fund in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget and funds.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.

This contract was procured by means of Request for Proposal and a Contracts Disclosure Form is required.