



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 14

Agenda Date: February 15, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance authorizing an amendment to an agreement with Bexar County Hospital District, d/b/a University Health for additional behavioral mental health counseling services.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an amendment to an agreement with Bexar County Hospital District, d/b/a University Health (University Health) for additional behavioral mental health counseling services for teens participating in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Project Worth program, in an amount up to \$55,000.00, for a total contract amount up to \$580,000.00, inclusive of renewals. This agreement is funded by the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program with a term ending September 30, 2024. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Project Worth is a positive youth development program that promotes the social and emotional health and wellbeing of children and teens through education, collaboration, and empowerment. The program provides opportunities for San Antonio youth to reach their full potential through the Project Worth Teen Ambassador program, DreamSA youth engagement initiative, as well as supports families with their "Let's Talk" social emotional learning parent initiative. The program also collaborates with various organizations in the community bringing together prevention

strategies to reduce the risk of negative health outcomes including, but not limited to, unhealthy relationships, teen pregnancy, and resiliency challenges, while promoting protective factors in the lives of youth.

One of these collaborations includes providing teens in San Antonio with no cost counseling services through an agreement with University Health. Over the last two years, University Health has exceeded the goal of providing 1,000 counseling sessions to teens in San Antonio. In FY 2022, University Health provided 368 teenagers, ages 13-19, a combined total of 1,303 behavioral counseling sessions and in FY 2023, provided 293 teenagers with a combined total of 1,184 behavioral counseling sessions. This service originated as a response to San Antonio's stagnant repeat birth rate and community focus groups identifying mental health as a root cause.

In 2020, Metro Health issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide no cost mental health services to youth served by the Project Worth program, where University Health was the selected respondent for this solicitation. City Council approved the initial agreement through Ordinance 2021-04-29-0286. The initial contract term commenced April 1, 2021, and ended September 30, 2021, with options to renew for two and a half years, terminating March 31, 2024. The services rendered through this contract provide access to mental health care to youth whose families may lack the financial means to afford such essential care. Furthermore, this agreement complements Metro Health's SA Forward strategic plan to address negative youth mental health outcomes. Due to the continued need for mental health services, Metro Health seeks to extend the current agreement period through September 30, 2024 and increase the total number of counseling sessions from 500 to 1,000. An amendment to the agreement with University Health to add additional funding in the amount of \$55,000.00, for a total amended contract value up to \$580,000.00, will allow for continued services of providing free behavioral and mental health support to San Antonio's youth.

Metro Health recognized the need for mental health resources has increased among all teens, especially pregnant and parenting teens, in San Antonio. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. Also, in 2022, Project Worth conducted a community wide Teen Mental Health Survey with youth ages 12 to 19 years old in San Antonio, which reiterated a continued need for access to behavioral and mental health counseling services and community resources and support.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is seeking City Council authorization to execute an amendment to an agreement with University Health for additional behavioral mental health counseling sessions in the amount of \$55,000.00, for a total contract value up to \$580,000.00, inclusive of renewals. This amendment is funded by the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program with a term ending September 30, 2024. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this agreement not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to provide additional behavioral mental health counseling services for adolescents served by the Project Worth program and extend the contract end date to September 30, 2024. The agreement will end March 31, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an amendment to an agreement with University Health for additional behavioral mental health counseling services for teens participating in Metro Health's Project Worth program. The amendment is in the amount of \$55,000.00, for a total contract value up to \$580,000.00, inclusive of renewals. The amendment is funded by the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program, with a term ending September 30, 2024. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.