



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: January 27, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Authorizing an agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas for the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative for an initial term ending September 30, 2022 with a one year renewal option for a total amount up to \$1,147,336.00 inclusive of the renewal. Funding for the agreement is available and budgeted in the Health Disparities grant fund in the amount of \$500,000.00 and the remaining first-year costs in the amount of \$315,190.00 from the CARES Act in the Strategic Growth Plan Budget. The funding for the second-year costs in the amount of \$332,146.00 is subject to City Council approval in FY 2023.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance will authorize an agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas for the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative for an initial amount up to \$565,190.00 for the term ending September 30, 2022 with a one-year renewal option for a total amount up to \$1,147,336.00 inclusive of the renewal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mental health is the foundation for an individual's personal development, physical health, individual and family stability, education and employment outcomes, and incarceration risk. An untreated mental health issue is the first domino to fall in a long line of costly impacts to the individual and the community. For instance, a child who does not receive needed mental health services is at much greater risk for needing therapy as an adult, dropping out of school, being unemployed or underemployed, incarceration, health problems such as heart disease and diabetes, and substance abuse.

San Antonio Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative

In March 2019, Students at South San ISD addressed their board of trustees requesting that district funds be used to provide mental health programs. The San Antonio Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative (MMWC) was formed in direct response to this overwhelming need. The MMWC is a collaboration of local nonprofits wanting to provide a holistic approach to mental wellness by breaking barriers and bringing services right into the schools.

The MMWC provides services at no cost to support learning and healthy development. Services include mental health screenings, treatment, and service recommendations; on-site counseling (individual and support groups); faculty/staff training to screen students for behavioral health concerns; substance abuse prevention education and intervention; psychiatric medication management treatment and referrals to other forms of intensive, longer-term care; wraparound support; navigation assistance; and wellness education for parents/guardians.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, MMWC introduced virtual services as an option to receiving services or when school buildings were closed. By the end of May 2020, and within six months, the program had served more than 1,600 people through counseling and outreach. The 2020-2021 school year ended with 4,600+ students, families, teachers, and district staff successfully receiving services. The program has since expanded to include Harlandale ISD, Edgewood ISD, parts of San Antonio ISD and will continue to expand into an additional districts during the current school year.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) seeks to enter into an agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas (MMHPI) to establish the backbone of the MMWC. The MMHPI is a data-driven, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports the implementation of policies and programs to obtain effective and efficient mental health care when needed. MMHPI is Texas' most trusted source for results-oriented information and analysis of effective and efficient mental health policy and programs. MMHPI works at the state, regional, and local levels to help mental health systems improve, share best practices, develop resources, and increase public awareness on the most effective ways to treat mental illness and help people recover.

The scope of work for the agreement with MMHPI includes identifying leadership and staffing needs, data administration, marketing, outreach to potential clients, technology, community engagement and the implementation of school-based behavioral and mental health counseling services.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting City Council authorization of an agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas for the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative for an initial amount up to \$565,190.00 for the term ending September 30, 2022 with a one-year renewal option for a total amount up to \$1,147,336.00 inclusive of the renewal. This action will allow Metro Health to provide mental health services for children and families in San Antonio schools through the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative. Services will target children and communities disproportionately experiencing violence. Counseling services will be provided free of charge and will include individual counseling, group therapy, psychiatry, drug and alcohol evaluation and counseling, consultations, trauma-informed assessments, and screenings to identify Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this contract not be authorized, Metro Health will be unable to move forward with plans to provide mental health services for children and families in San Antonio schools and will be unable to meet deliverables set forth in the Health Disparities grant and the department's strategic growth plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes an agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas for the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative for an initial term ending September 30, 2022, with a one-year renewal option for a total amount up to \$1,147,336.00 inclusive of the renewal. Funding for the agreement is available and budgeted in the Health Disparities grant fund in the amount of \$500,000.00 and the remaining first-year costs in the amount of \$315,190.00 is available from the FY 2022 Strategic Growth Plan Budget. The funding for the second-year costs in the amount of \$332,146.00 is subject to City Council approval in FY 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council authorize the agreement with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas for the implementation of the Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative.