



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 42

**Agenda Date:** December 16, 2021

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Authorization of an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement with Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC)

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the negotiation and execution of an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) for the purpose of providing and managing seven mental health professionals to assist with mental health crisis stabilization as part of the Multidisciplinary Response Team (MDRT) for Mental Health pilot program, and to conduct an evaluation of the program. The amendment increases the contract by \$1,670,546.00 for a total amount up to \$2,807,676.00 for a period of January 2022 to March 2023. Funds in the amount of 1,159,620.00 are available from the FY 2022 Budget and funds in the amount of \$510,926.00 are subject to City Council approval as part of the upcoming budget process.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As part of the FY 2022 Adopted Budget, City Council approved a pilot program to provide an alternative response to mental health 911 calls handled by the San Antonio Police Department

(SAPD). A Multidisciplinary Team (MDRT) was approved as recommended by the Meadows Mental health Policy Institute (MMHPI) as part of a study conducted last summer. While Meadows stated that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) is well ahead of most police agencies in their approach to mental health, the MMHPI made recommendations that can enhance the program and improve outcomes for those experiencing a mental health crisis.

The MDRT is a medically led team consisting of a licensed mental health professional, a San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) paramedic and SAPD Mental Health Unit (MHU) Officer. During the pilot program the MDRT team will respond to central substation calls beginning in April 2022 seven days per week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Additionally, the pilot program will begin to integrate licensed clinicians to the 911 call center to cover peak hours the days of the week when the greatest frequency of calls occurs. It is anticipated that the program will begin in April 2022.

This council action will authorize the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) to amend the Interlocal Agreement with STRAC to add seven mental health clinicians and to assist the implementation and evaluation of the program. STRAC will engage the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute in the implementation and evaluation of the program.

#### **ISSUE:**

Metro Health, seeks to amend the Interlocal Agreement with Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) for STRAC to engage seven (7) licensed mental health professionals for a Multidisciplinary Response Team (MDRT) pilot program and conduct an evaluation of the program.

The current contract with STRAC is a four year agreement that provides three (3) mental health professionals to the City of San Antonio to work with SAPD mental health unit.

The contracted mental health professionals will help facilitate an immediate care plan to address the consumer's mental health illness concerns. Additionally, Field Team Behavioral Health Clinicians will be cross trained to serve as 911 Behavioral Health Dispatch Clinicians and work in the 911 Response Center to provide triage and support to 911 callers with mental health crisis needs.

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#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The City currently contracts with STRAC for the three mental health clinicians that work with the SAPD mental health unit, amendment to this agreement for the additional seven clinicians is the most effective and efficient alternative for the additional services.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) in the amount of \$1,670,546.00 for the period of January 2022 to September 2023. Funds are available as follows:

- \$1,159,620.00 is available from the General Fund Metro Health Budget and prior year carryforward for the FY 2022 (January 2022 to September 2023).
- \$510,926.00 is subject to City Council approval as part of the FY 2023 Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.