

# COMMISSIONERS COURT BRIEFING



**DATE:** 11/20/2018

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Criminal Justice

**THROUGH:**

**SUBJECT:** MOU between the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Dallas County

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## **BACKGROUND:**

Dallas County Commissioners Court order 2018-0127 on February 6, 2018, authorized Dallas County to apply to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a grant to enhance and expand substance abuse treatment services in existing adult problem solving courts in order to provide an alcohol and drug continuum of treatment services for the Dallas County courts. On August 8, 2018, Dallas County was notified by SAMHSA that they were awarded a total of \$1,949,379.00 over a 5 year term (9/30/2018-9/29/2023) in order to support this project and these treatment services. The grant provides funding for residential treatment for women and minority males ages 17-30, a project coordinator, peer recovery services, and an evaluation of the program.

Program evaluation for the SAMHSA grant will be performed by Dr. Jennifer Reingle Gonzalez, PhD., of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSCH). This program evaluation includes data collection and sharing with Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD). The purpose of this briefing is to request Commissioners Court approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dallas County, Texas on behalf of the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department and Dallas County CSCD, and to approve SAMHSA grant funds to pay UTHSCH a total amount of \$40,000.00 per project year.

## **OPERATIONAL IMPACT:**

The primary goal of this grant project is to increase the number of women and minority males ages 17-30 who are able to access residential substance abuse treatment, reduce the length of time they must wait in jail before entering treatment, and provide enhanced services to reduce recidivism. The grant period is for 5 years starting September 30, 2018. Grant activities will provide participants with residential substance abuse treatment, outpatient substance abuse treatment, peer recovery services, and specialized treatment interventions. The grant requires the collection and reporting of certain data so that SAMHSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results (GPR) Modernization Act of 2010. Dallas County is required to report the following measures: Number of individuals served, abstinence from substance use, employment, housing stability, criminal justice involvement, social connectedness, and risk behaviors. This information will be gathered using a uniform data collection tool provided by SAMHSA. Dr. Jennifer Reingle Gonzalez with UTHSCH has agreed to conduct the required data collection and performance management reporting.

<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	Criminal Justice	<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Nakish Greer
		<b>APPROVED BY DEPT HEAD:</b>	Charlene Randolph

The data will be collected via a face-to-face and phone interviews using the GPRA tool at three data collection points: Intake to services, six months post intake, one year post intake. UTHSCH has agreed to complete a GPRA interview on all clients in their specified unduplicated target number and are also expected to achieve a six-month follow-up rate of 80 percent. All grant participants must be engaged in a certified Dallas County specialty court program. In order to complete program evaluation analysis, UTHSCH will need and receive data on program participants from Dallas County CSCD, since program participants are engaged under CSCD supervision as part of their specialty court engagement.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The grant award for the five year term is a total of \$1,949,379.00 (9/30/2018-9/29/2023). The amount allotted for the first grant year (9/30/2018-9/29/2019) is \$389,295. There is no cash match required. This MOU includes payment to UTHSCH for program evaluation services. UTHSCH will be paid \$40,000.00 per project year. Payments will be executed in three payments per year at \$13,333.33 per payment.

**LEGAL IMPACT:**

Criminal Justice staff worked with the District Attorney's Office – Civil Division who developed and approved the contract amendment. The services provided by University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston are professional services and; therefore, in accordance with Section 262.024(a)(4) of the Local Government Code a professional services exemption granted by Commissioners Court order is required.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The contract term is for one year, commencing on the date of execution by Dallas County and will expire on September 29, 2019. The contract may be renewed by mutual written agreement up to four additional one year periods until September 29, 2023. Services will begin once the contractual agreement with UTHSCH is finalized.

**SBE PARTICIPATION:**

N/A

**ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

Accepting and approving the MOU between Dallas County and UTHSCH for the SAMHSA grant project evaluation services is in line with the vision that Dallas County is a healthy community, and that Dallas County is a proactive regional partner. The SAMHSA grant project partners with specialty courts in order to create quick and effective connection to treatment for women in jail. It also works to provide additional support and resources for these individuals, in order to assist them in long-term recovery and success, which results in reduced recidivism and increase health of the overall community. The goal of this grant is also to increase access to community-based treatment, thus resulting in increased regional partnership. It also reaches the goal to ensure that Dallas County services are efficiently and effectively delivered.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Dallas County, Texas on Behalf of Dallas County Criminal Justice Department and the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and authorize the Dallas County Judge to sign the contracts and related documents on behalf of Dallas County.

The Commissioners Court grants an exemption to the competitive procurement requirements pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 262.024(a)(4).