



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to approve an amendment to the previously approved service contract for Psychiatric Services and Consultation in the amount of \$146,718.00 to provide psychiatric services to individuals in the Durham County Detention Facility. The correct contract amount is \$154,053.90. The funding for this contract has been included in the Justice Services Department’s approved FY24-25 budget.

### **Background/Justification**

In 2014, the Justice Services Department, formerly the Criminal Justice Resource Center, assumed the contract for psychiatric services in the detention center through a Memorandum of Agreement with Alliance Behavioral Health Care. At that time, Psychiatric Services LLC, and its sole proprietor Dr. Patricia Knaut, had been providing the service at the Detention Center for several years under a contractual agreement with The Durham Center.

As the facility’s Mental Health Director, per the Jail Medical Plan, the psychiatrist holds the ultimate responsibility for making clinical decisions concerning the care of mental health clients. The vendor operates a weekly clinic for inmates who are experiencing symptoms from their condition and who have difficulty adjusting to the daily life within the jail and is primarily responsible for writing prescriptions for inmates who have a documented mental health diagnosis and history of psychiatric medication use as they enter the jail. In addition, the psychiatrist makes a clinical determination of whether an inmate with no documented medication history should be placed on medication. Medication administration is then monitored, on paper or in person, every 30 days for compliance and effectiveness. The psychiatrist also works with the Jail Mental Health Team on identifying and monitoring individuals placed in the Mental Health Pod.

Durham County Purchasing Division issued a Request for Qualifications for Professional Psychiatric Services (RFQ 18-033) in May 2018. Psychiatric Services and Consultation, PC was the only respondent. The contract maintains 19 hours per week at the detention center.

In February 2021, the contract was amended to add two to three (2-3) hours per week to interview youth detained at the Durham County Youth Home, prescribing and reviewing medications on established review intervals. Previously, the Youth Home had no regular onsite psychiatric services and had to transport youth to community-based services when needed. Since “Raise the Age” and associated legislation went into effect, more juveniles are confined for longer periods of time at the facility due to very serious charges. During fiscal year 24-25, the Youth Home will maintain a separate contract for mental health services with Psychiatric Services and Consultation.

The FY24-25 contract includes a 5% increase (\$7,335.90) in the annual contract for psychiatric services at the Durham County Detention center.

The County Attorney’s Office has reviewed the service contract.



**Policy Impact**

The agenda item is consistent with historical Board of County Commissioner support for mental health services for justice involved individuals and a continued emphasis on reducing the number of inmates with mental health concerns.

**Procurement Background**

**Type of purchase**

- Goods
- Services
- Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- Construction and Repair

**Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes  No**

*Goods: Bids required if  $\geq$  \$30,000, BOCC approval if  $\geq$  \$90,000*

*Services: Bids required if  $\geq$  \$30,000, BOCC approval if  $>$  \$40,000*

*Construction/Repair work: Bids required if  $\geq$  \$30,000, BOCC approval if  $\geq$  \$500,000*

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- Sole source exemption
- Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- State and federal contract exemption
- Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- Other (please explain)

**If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes  No**

If no, why?

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**Fiscal Impact**

This contract has been included in the Justice Services Department (formerly Criminal Justice Resource Center’s) budget for Jail Mental Health Services since 2014. The availability of Psychiatric Services in the Durham County Detention Facility is paramount to meeting the mandate that inmates’ psychiatric medications must be reviewed every 30 days. Funding for the



contract is included in the Justice Services Department Detention Behavioral Health Services FY24-25 budget.

**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the County Manager to enter into a Service Contract with Psychiatric Services and Consultation for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in the amount of \$154,053.90.