



October 11, 2019

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
and the Board of County Commissioners

From: *Carrie Mathes* Carrie Mathes, Manager, Procurement Division

Contact: Donna Wyche, Manager, Mental Health and Homelessness Division  
407-836-7608

Subject: Approval of Funding Agreement Y20-2062 for the Provision of Funding  
a Functional Family Therapy Team

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approval of Funding Agreement Y20-2062 for the Provision of Funding a Functional Family Therapy Team, with Bay Area Youth Services dba BAYS Florida, in the amount of \$565,000 for a 1-year term. Further request authorization for the Procurement Division to renew this contract for two additional 1-year terms.

**PROCUREMENT:**

This agreement establishes a functional family therapy team which is an evidence based practice recommended by the Youth Mental Health Commission for Orange County youth between the ages of 11 and 18 with emotional and behavioral health challenges and who may have had multiple inpatient hospitalizations. The contract term will begin upon contract execution.

**FUNDING:**

Funding is available in account 0001-062-2504-8610.

**APPROVALS:**

The Mental Health and Homelessness Division concurs with this recommendation.

**REMARKS:**

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 17, Article III, Section 17-286 – Application and exclusions, agreements between the Board and non-profit entities are excluded from competitive procurement requirements.

In August 2013, the Youth Mental Health Commission (YMHC) began to examine the youth mental health system of care in Orange County. After meeting for over a year, YMHC produced a detailed report on the state of youth mental health services in Orange County and recommendations for improvement. One of the top recommendations focused on transforming the mental health service delivery system through training and certifying clinicians in evidence based practices. The Clinical Subcommittee of the YMHC recommended Functional Family Therapy as an intervention for implementation.

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The specific target population for this intervention are Orange County youth between the ages of 11 and 18 who are experiencing moderate to severe emotional and behavioral health challenges and who are also at risk or involved with multiple systems such as Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, and inpatient psychiatric hospitals. Functional Family Therapy is considered an intensive outpatient treatment with success in preventing youth from out of home placements, and it is an innovation that will provide improved outcomes with a challenging population. Families will indicate a positive change in family functioning as measured on the Family Functioning Therapist Outcome Measurement Tool. Youth will report more positive mental health functioning as indicated in pre and post outcome measures. Adults and youth successfully discharged will live in a stable housing environment. In November 2018, the Department of Children and Families was able to fund this practice for only one year through State Proviso funds, but as of November 1, 2019, this program will have to close its doors if the funding is unavailable.

Staff contacted the Department of Children and Families for an estimate of total contract expenditures and compared it to other County team based evidenced practices to ensure the amount was within the range of reasonableness. To ensure there is no gap in services for youth and families in need, the County seeks to fund this team at the current contract operational budget within the permissible expense categories listed in the scope of services.

As a result of this funding agreement, the Youth Mental Health Commission will be able to sustain this valuable evidence based practice to the menu of diverse services that Orange County is committed to providing to Orange County youth and families with serious behavioral health needs.