



Interoffice Memorandum

August 23, 2023

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

From: Carrie Mathes, CFCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager II, Procurement Division

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

Subject: Approval of Contract Y23-151, Youth Mental Health Management Network Pilot (Breakthrough)

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Contract Y23-151, Youth Mental Health Management Network Pilot (Breakthrough), with Embrace Families Solutions, Inc., in the estimated contract award amount of \$439,006.77 for a one-year term. Further request authorization for the Procurement Division to renew the contract for two additional one-year terms.

PROCUREMENT:

This contract will provide additional funding for staff to provide mental health support services to youth enrolled in the Program (Breakthrough) and manage Partner Funds contributed and received by the County to reimburse Embrace Families Solutions, Inc. for costs incurred related to the administration of the Program as the Managing Partner of the Consortium.

FUNDING:

Funds is available in account number 0001-062-2507-8610.

APPROVALS:

The Mental Health and Homelessness Division concurs with this recommendation.

REMARKS:

Per the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Youth Mental Health Management Network Consortium, only a Funding Partner can perform the Managing Partner role. Embrace Families Solutions, Inc. is the only Funding Partner with the necessary infrastructure and organizational leadership to perform the fiscal management responsibilities and the hiring and support of Family Support Navigators, making them the sole provider of services.

Embrace Families Solutions, Inc. is the current provider of these services under Y20-1041 and has performed satisfactorily.

Vendor/Agency History: Embrace Families (Community Based Care, later Solutions) has been working with Orange County since early 2014 when the organization's CEO served as Chairman of the Needs Assessment Committee whose contributions, along with many others, led to the development and implementation of the Youth Mental Health Management Network Consortium and later the Youth Mental Health Pilot Project called Breakthrough.

The Youth Mental Health Management Network Consortium (“Management Network”) was formalized in November 2017 and in December 2017 Embrace Families was selected as the Managing Partner for the Management Network and made significant contributions to the development and operation of the Youth Mental Health Pilot Project called Breakthrough which launched in April 2018.

Embrace Families has been a reliable partner and contributor to youth mental health work since the inception of the Management Network and Youth Mental Health Pilot Project called Breakthrough.

Role Definitions:

Youth Mental Health Management Network Consortium is a collective of partners who provide technical and subject matter expertise to the Youth Mental Health Commission. The Management Network Consortium members' role is to ensure that Breakthrough and other mental health programs under the Youth Mental Health Commission conform to the needs and best interests of affected families and children within Orange County.

Managing Partner is designated by the Management Network and is responsible for managing youth mental health consortium contributions, and disbursement of funds for participant service needs, the managing partner is also responsible for receiving and reviewing all invoices or requests for payment received by the youth mental health service providers, supervising providers that are serving families participating with Breakthrough or related mental health programs under the Youth Mental Health Commission.

Youth Mental Health Management Network Pilot (“Pilot Project”) was developed out of necessity in April 2018 to address the behavioral needs of youth, between the ages of 13 and 16, who have had two or more inpatient hospitalizations within a 12-month period, with many of these readmissions having occurred within 30 days of discharge.

Research and planning for the Pilot Project began in early 2014; the research conducted by the collection of stakeholders created the framework for the Youth Mental Health Commission and later for the Pilot Project. In early 2014, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) heard the recommendations and approved the implementation of the Pilot Project.

After receiving approval from the BCC, the research and planning committees informally became the Management Network and entered into a formal agreement in November 2017 to become the Youth Mental Health (YMH) Management Network Consortium. The YMH Management Network Consortium was responsible for oversight of the Pilot Project. The Pilot Project called Breakthrough was launched in April 2018.

Program Goals include improving mental health outcomes, and preventing, or reducing severe aggressive behavioral, emotional, and psychiatric issues in children. The pilot was designed to:

1. Provide clinically appropriate, integrated treatment and increase coping skills to prevent future hospitalizations.
2. Utilize key components of the System of Care model, including youth-voice, family-choice-focused treatment, and a Family Support Navigator.
3. Increase youth and family functioning, at the individual and family level, across specific domains based on an individual's needs and strengths of youth and families.

Enrollment/Referral Criteria in the current iteration, The Pilot Project (Breakthrough) targets youth between 9 and 17 years of age with a history of at least two psychiatric hospitalizations in need of increased support. Additional referral criteria require youth to be residents of Orange County and be in the care of a permanent caregiver.

Referrals/how people know about the services in the current iteration, the Pilot Project (Breakthrough) primary referral sources are the psychiatric hospitals, Central Florida Behavioral Health, and University Behavioral Center.