



**Interoffice Memorandum**

April 26, 2024

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

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

CONTACT: Isabelle Klier-Graham, Manager, Mental Health and Homelessness Division  
407-836-3187

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment No. 2 Y23-2402B, Behavioral Health Community Analysis Recommendations

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Amendment No. 2, Contract Y23-2402B, Behavioral Health Community Analysis Recommendations, with Specialized Treatment Education and Prevention, Inc. (STEPS), in the amount of \$400,000, for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$806,070.

PROCUREMENT:

This amendment will extend the period of performance from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 and add funding to continue providing outpatient services that meet the needs of those with substance use and/or mental illness for the extended performance periods.

APPROVALS:

The Mental Health and Homelessness Division concurs with this recommendation.

REMARKS:

On May 23, 2023, the Board authorized award of Contract Y23-2402B with STEPS, in the estimated contract amount of \$395,493 for a one-year term.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a public health need for increased access to mental health services. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shares that this stress can cause feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration. According to the CDC, which surveyed adults across the U.S. in late June of 2020, 31% of respondents reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, 13% reported having started or increased substance use, 26% reported stress-related symptoms, and 11% reported having serious thoughts of suicide in the past 30 days. These numbers are nearly double the rates before the pandemic.

The World Health Organization has researched and studied the effects of COVID-19 on mental illness. Two key findings of this research include:

- Risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 was higher among people living with mental disorders.
- Among people living with mental disorders, illness severity and mortality increased with younger age and disorder severity.

Programs will be available to any Orange County resident meeting criteria for said services. Funding will support STEPS to increase staff to provide services that will expand access to outpatient services and medication assisted treatment for individuals with substance abuse disorders and primarily opioid use disorders.

Previous contract amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1: Increased the contract amount by \$10,577, for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$406,070.