



July 3, 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 Issues
Division
407-836-7608

Subject: Approval of Funding Agreement Y23-1066, Provision of Funding a Multi
Systemic Therapy Psychiatric Program

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Funding Agreement Y23-1066, Provision of Funding a Multi Systemic Therapy Psychiatric Program, between Orange County, Florida, and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, in the contract award amount of \$1,383,970.46 for a one-year term. Further request Board authorization for the Procurement Division to renew the contract for three additional one-year terms.

PROCUREMENT:

The funding agreement establishes a Multi Systemic Therapy Psychiatric (MST-PSYCH) evidence-based practice for the Youth Mental Health Commission. MST PSYCH serves all Orange County youth who meet criteria; and therapy services take place at the enrolled families' home addresses or other locations in the community they are most comfortable meeting. The performance period is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

FUNDING:

Funding is available in account numbers 0001-062-2501-8610 and 0001-062-2519-8610.

APPROVALS:

The Mental Health and Homelessness Issues 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 over a year, the

Commission 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 Sub-committee of the YMHC recommended MST-PSYCH as the first intervention for implementation. The specific target population for this intervention are Orange County youth with a severe mental health diagnosis who have had multiple admissions to an inpatient psychiatric hospital. Multi Systemic Therapy is considered an Intensive Outpatient Treatment with success in preventing youth from psychiatric residential replacements. This is an innovation that will provide improved outcomes for a challenging population.

As a result of this funding agreement the Youth Mental Health Commission will be able to add 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.

Vendor/Agency History: MST-PSYCH was the second evidenced-based therapeutic model adopted by the YMHC in August 2018. Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health willingly accepted the challenge of developing a team of expert clinicians to bring this practice to Central Florida and Orange County. Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health and Orange County remain the sole providers of MST-PSYCH.

Model Definitions:

MST-PSYCH is an adaptation of Multisystemic Therapy that primarily targets youth between the ages of 9 and 17, at risk of out-of-home placement due to serious behavioral problems and co-occurring mental health symptoms (such as thought disorder, bipolar affective disorder, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, and substance use/abuse).

Program Goals: MST-PSYCH prevents or reduces severe aggressive behavioral, emotional, and psychiatric issues in children. Over a period of four to six months, MST-Psych is delivered in homes, neighborhoods, schools, and communities by master's level clinicians.

1. Increase school attendance.
2. Improve family relations.
3. Improve youth and caregiver satisfaction.
4. Reduce in-patient hospitalization.
5. Prevent or decrease days in out-of-home placement.
6. Decrease rates of attempted suicide.

Enrollment/Referral Criteria: MST-PSYCH will serve Orange County Youth with mental health symptoms at high risk of out-of-home placement ages 9 to 17.

Referrals/how people know about the services: Services are promoted by Devereux Behavioral Health staff; the Youth Mental Health Commission members, Orange County Public School staff including Sednet and school social workers.

Referral Limitations: Children under the age of nine are not appropriate candidates for this intervention as dictated by the model which governs the fidelity of MST-PSYCH.

Mayoral Initiatives: By bolstering and expanding services within the youth mental health system we address Recommendation five of the Orange County Mental and Behavioral Health System of Care Community Analysis.