

RFP 22-066
Questions and Answers

1. The due date for responses to the county's RFP is currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th, which is tight considering the scope of work and the detail which a response such as this deserves. Would the county please extend the due date by another two (2) weeks?

Answer: No, the dates will remain the same.

2. With this Agreement being based on a cost-plus model, please explain, and provide as much of an explanation as possible, describing the process with the county compensating the successful provider. Does the county compensate the provider in monthly payments based on the proposal price, and manage a true-up/reconciliation process quarterly or annually, or does the county compensate the provider based on each, and every month's invoice and its corresponding supportive documentation?

Answer: The provider is compensated monthly based on the invoice and supportive documentation submitted. A true-up/reconciliation is processed quarterly.

3. Section 31.3.8 on page 24 of the RFP states, "The Respondent will provide inmate transportation for emergency ambulance care (when normal County EMS services are not able to be provided); the County provides all other transportation relating to the provision of health services."

Answer: See Addendum 1.

3.a. Please explain the meaning of, "emergency ambulance care (when normal County EMS services are not able to be provided)." Please confirm if the successful provider will be responsible for transporting inmate patients, and how the county expects transports to safely occur when EMS/ambulances are unavailable. On average, how many times per year are EMS/ambulances unavailable?

Answer: See Addendum 1.

4. Does the incumbent currently manage suturing on-site at the Jail, or is suturing managed off-site with local providers?

Answer: Suturing is managed on-site if indicated.

5. Has the county assessed the incumbent with any fines or penalties related to performance and/or position vacancies? If so, please provide detail of any, and all penalties assessed over the past three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021) and 2022 to date?

Answer: No

6. Section 31.7.2 on page 28 of the RFP states, "The Respondent shall provide health education for security staff not to exceed fifty (50) hours of instruction per year in such areas as:

Airborne Pathogens Bloodborne Pathogens, Recognizing and responding to Suicide, Recognizing and responding to Mental Health Concerns Emergency Procedures"

How often does the incumbent provide this, or other types of training for the county's detention officers? How many times over the past four (4) years has the incumbent trained the county's detention team? How many times over the past four (4) years has the incumbent trained their healthcare team? Please state who provides this training for the incumbent.

Answer: The current vendor provides the training material annually, which is uploaded onto the training platform used by the County. The vendor is responsible for healthcare team training.

7. What has been the average monthly census of HIV inmates over the past three (3) years (2018, 2019 and 2020) and 2021 to date? What is the average length of stay for this inmate group?

Answer: 2018- 12

2019- 12

2020- 13

2021- 14

Average length of stay is not a statistic maintained.

8. What has been the county's census for pregnant females each of the past three (3) years (2018, 2019 and 2020) and 2021 to date? What is the average length of stay for this population?

Answer: 2018- 7

2019- 4

2020- 2

2021- 2

Average length of stay is not a statistic maintained.

9. Please confirm the incumbent does not provide STD or any type of lab draws during the intake process?

Answer: No STD testing or lab draws performed during the intake process.

10. Is the county requiring court ordered mandatory blood draws as a component of this RFP? If so, are these draws managed by the incumbent's healthcare team while on-site or are contracted nurses brought in to conduct the draws? Please explain the chain of custody with the specimen after it's been taken.

Answer: No. All court ordered blood draws are performed by a contracted nurse.

11. Does the incumbent manage pregnancy testing on female inmates during the intake process?

Answer: Yes

12. Does the incumbent provide any level of OBGYN services on-site at the Jail? If so, please provide detail of the level of services provided.

Answer: The family practitioner begins the prenatal work up then the patient is referred to an OB/GYN.

13. Is the county interested in pre-employment and/or active service drug screening for county employee's/officers? If so, please provide how many may be conducted on an annual basis.

Answer: No

14. How many tort claims have been filed against the county and, or the incumbent over the past four (4) years?

Answer: Question sent to County Attorney to answer.

15. Does the county allow for inmate's medications to be provided/brought in by family members?

Answer: Yes, if approved by the provider.

16. Please explain the incumbent's inmate detox/withdrawal program at each of the Ft. Bend County Jail.

Answer: This information is proprietary to the incumbent.

17. Are inmates provided a supply of medications upon release from the Jail? If so, how much of a supply is provided? Please describe how this process is currently being managed.

Answer: Yes, patients on mental health medications are provided a 14 day supply upon release. The process used is determined by the vendor.

18. Does the incumbent manage any on-site providers at the detention facilities, or is all provider coverage delivered through tele-psych services? Would the county like to see proposals based through on-site services in lieu of telepsych services?

Answer: Both on site and tele-psych is utilized currently and we are open to continuing utilizing both options.

19. Does the incumbent currently offer and manage any programming (i.e. Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Thinking for a Change...) in the detention facilities? Specifically, which programs are being offered, if any?

Answer: Currently all programs have been stopped due to COVID.

20. Does the incumbent currently provide any discharge services for the county's inmate population?

Answer: Yes

21. Does the county currently partner with any community based mental health providers to help re-introduce offenders back into the community and reduce recidivism? If so, please provide a list of these community-based providers.

Answer: Yes, Texana.

22. Does the mental health provider currently manage any group therapy/counseling classes/services being provided on-site at the county's detention facilities?

Answer: No, currently all programs have been stopped due to COVID.

23. How many hours per week are tele-psychiatry services being provided at each of the detention facilities versus on-site mental health services?

Answer: Each week varies.

24. Please provide the number of attempted suicides over the past three (3) years (2018, 2019 and 2020) and 2021 to date?

*Answer: 2018- 0
2019- 0.4
2020- 0.2
2021- 0.3*

25. Please provide the number of completed inmate suicides over the past three (3) years (2018, 2019 and 2020) and 2021 to date?

*Answer: 2018- 0
2019- 0
2020- 0
2021- 0*

26. Has any litigation resulted from these inmate suicides and/or attempts? Please provide detail for this litigation and the findings of each.

Answer: Inquiring County Attorney.

27. What is the accessibility for inmates requiring acute psychiatric hospitalizations when care and treatment is beyond the scope of practice on-site? How many inmates were transferred to your acute psychiatric hospital(s) the past three (3) years (2018, 2019 and 2020) and 2021 to date?

Answer: Inmates are not transferred to acute psychiatric hospitals. All are maintained on site.

28. What is the county's process for inmates that meet requirements for involuntary hospitalization?

Answer: Inmates are not transferred to acute psychiatric hospitals.

29. Where does the county send inmates requiring inpatient Psychiatric treatment?

Answer: Inmates are not transferred for mental health care with the exception of competency restoration and patients being civilly committed.

30. Are inmates currently given forced or involuntary psychiatric medications when they're a danger to self or others as a result of a psychiatric disease, disorder, or illness?

Answer: Yes, emergency psychotropic injections if they are a danger to themselves or others.

31. How many inmates were found Incompetent to stand trial the past three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021) and 2022 to date? What has been the average length of time inmates wait pending transfer to the state hospital?

*Answer: 2019- 23
2020- 24
2021- 19
2022- 4 to date*

Average length of time waiting transfer: 685 days for max and 132 days for ASH

32. Is the county interested in an on-site restoration of competency (ROC), program as part of the mental/behavioral health programs and services?

Answer: No, not as part of the mental health programs and services.

33. How does the county manage inmates who are being released, but continue to be high-risk (i.e. on suicide watch)?

Answer: Inmates being released that are high-risk are screened by the MHP and/or Texana and accommodations are made as necessary.

34. Please provide a complete list of the existing computer and technological equipment to include, but not be limited to desk-top computers, laptop computers, printers, copiers, document scanners, EKG machines, emergency jump bags, medication carts and other medical equipment being utilized in the Jail. Please include the age and approximate condition of each piece of equipment.

Answer: All equipment on site currently will stay with the exception to the EKG machine and large copy/scan/fax that are leased by the incumbent. Ages of equipment vary, but all are in working order.

35. Are high speed Wifi capabilities available throughout the County Jail?

Answer: Yes.

36. RFP section 44.0 Proposal Cost Sheet references "See Attachment 5" provides the last fiscal year trended detail expense statement. RFP section 37.3 references "Respondent's budget must include at a minimum: 10 listed categories". The trended detail expense statement categories do not correlate to the 10 listed categories requested. Please confirm the expected format for the fiscal year 2023 and 2024 pricing submission.

Answer: The format selected is at the proposer's discretion.

37. RFP section 31.2.4.1 states "Promote a physically and emotionally safe environment, including conducting regular rounds and patient and property searches so patients can focus on managing their illnesses and disabilities to promote healing.", Is it the County's intention to include patient and property searches within the scope of the Psychiatric Technicians job duties?

Answer: No, Psychiatric Technicians will not be performing patient and property searches.

38. The current contract has a budget spend of \$6,290,783. For the six months ended 3/22 are we expecting to exceed the amount? What is the forecasted amount?

Answer: Currently the finances are under budget, but the forecast is unknown as many variables exist.

39. The Trended document (Attachment #5) has no dates on it (except in the footer) and has a total in the amount of \$6,204,275. What period does this cover? The document was created 10/27/21 and during the tour it was reported this was for the period that ended 9/21. Are these actual numbers?

Answer: Yes, these are actual numbers for the FY21.

40. The statistics in Attachment 4.1 and 4.2 are calendar year statistics for 2019 and 2020. Are these same statistics available for 2021?

Answer: Yes, see posted Excel file.

41. During the tour it was indicated that the MHP's recently changed their schedule from 10-hour shifts to other possibilities. Are MHP's scheduled 5:30am to 2pm and 1:30pm to 10pm M-F? What is the schedule for Saturday and Sunday? The preferred staffing matrix does not reflect this so will we be receiving a revised staffing schedule?

Answer: Yes, see posted Excel file..

42. During the tour it was reported nursing works 12-hour shift. Is scheduled overtime part of this (i.e. 36 hours week one and 48 hours week 2) or is nursing working 36 hours weekly?

Answer: No, the nurses work 36 hours per week.

43. Please clarify the LVN transport nurse is for on-site transporting only?

Answer: The LVN transport nurse handles the paperwork required for inmates being transferred to/from other facilities. This nurse does not physically transport inmates.

44. Does the (CPEP) Psych Tech require any certification? Since they do not appear on the current staffing matrix are they currently on staff, vacant or being hired?

Answer: No certification is required. This position is an addition to the new contract.

45. Please confirm the civil commitments are maintained at the jail.

Answer: Patients being civilly committed are maintained at the jail until a bed at the State Hospital is available and transportation occurs.

46. 31.3.8 Under what circumstances would county EMS not be available to transport patients?

Answer: See Addendum 1.

47. 31.4.2 What is the current cost for CorEMR? Will all digitized forms remain on site?

Answer: The cost of CorEMR is negotiated by the vendor. All current digitized forms are proprietary information of the incumbent.

48. Please provide a list of all vendors who attended the pre-bid tour.

Answer: See website.

49. Please confirm the Texas Ethics form and Certificate of Insurance are not required to be submitted with the proposal.

Answer: Proof of Insurance is, but not the 1295.

50. Please confirm the ADP for RFP response purposes is changed to 800.

Answer: Yes, please see Addendum 1.

51. Dental hours increased from 25 to 30 hours to 40 hours for the dentist and assistant from the current staffing to the preferred staffing. Aside from the notable increase in events from 2019 to 2020, can you report if there is a backlog in dental visit requests?

Answer: Yes there is currently a backlog.

52. Who are the current on-site specialty providers? Please provide a list.

Answer: There are no specialty providers on site.

53. Who are the current off-site specialty providers? Please provide a list

Answer: Current off-site specialty providers are negotiated by the incumbent and not available.

54. Who are the current hospitals servicing the jail?

Answer: Oak Bend Medical Center, Methodist, Memorial Hermann, St. Lukes.

55. Who is the current trauma center servicing the jail and what is the distance from the jail?

Answer: Oak Bend Medical Center then transferred from there if warranted. The main campus is approximately 1 mile from the jail.

56. Who provides your current Biohazard service?

Answer: Stericycle.

57. Who provides your current Laboratory service?

Answer: Labcorp.

58. Starting 10/1/22 Whitney & Pinn will start auditing the medical contract. Please provide a list of what they will require from the medical staff such as staff time, documents, medical record access and anything else not mentioned here.

Answer: Whitley Penn is the vendor providing the audit services. Time does not allow for review of their contract. You may find the contract details by searching on the County website under Commissioners Court Online. The solicitation number is 20-083.

59. Those patients sent to the hospital under fit for jail – will those visits be direct billed by the hospital?

Answer: Yes.

60. Section 31.3.9 requires the establishment of a Pharmaceutical System. Does the site currently use a pharmacy consultant? Is the site wanting a special license for the pharmacy? Please clarify.

Answer: Unsure what the question is asking. There is currently a contract with a pharmacy and they provide consultation. I am not aware of any special licensing needed for the pharmacy.

61. During the tour it was reported there were less than 5 ER runs this past year. This is different from the stats from prior years – perhaps the question was misunderstood? 9/20 9/19, ER runs 359 509, Ambulance tr to ER 19 50, Jail Tr to ER 61 112, Fit for jail clearances 283 347

Answer: During the tour, the 5 ER runs reported was per month, and was in context of runs made by the jail. The statistics included above include transport via ambulance and fit for jail visits.

62. It was reported that suicide watch can take place anywhere in the jail. Those cells that are used are they considered safe for this purpose?

Answer: Yes, they are considered violence cells.

63. What is the average length of stay?

Answer: 2022 year to date (4/11/2022) - 9.91 days. 2021 - Average days in jail 16.20

64. What is your malpractice claim history over the past 5 years?

Answer: Inquiring County Attorney.

65. Are the Mental Health Professionals (MHP) licensed?

Answer: Yes.

66. Do you want malpractice costs included in the management fee?

Answer: No, the malpractice cost is included in the insurance required to be provided.

67. In order to retain staff, what is the current per-hour rate for each line-item labor category in solicitation?
a. Please provide the ratio of staff that have served in the following categories of experience with Fort Bend County Jail:

1-2 years: 22:48, 3-5 years: 9:48, 6-8 years: 6:48, 9-11 years: 11:48, 12-15 years: prior to Wellpath,
15+ years: prior to Wellpath

Answer: Salaries vary on position and certifications.

68. What positions have been vacant and how long have each of these positions been vacant?

*Answer: PT LVN weekends open since February 2022
FT MHP evenings open since February 2022
FT MHP evenings open since October 2022
PT MHP every other weekend open since February 2022
FT LVN nights open since April 2022*

69. Can you please provide a description of the inmate programs for behavioral and mental health.

Answer: No programs are currently being run due to COVID.

70. Can you please describe any discharge planning and MAT programs that are currently in place at the facility.

Answer: MAT programs are not utilized in our facility. Discharge planning is provided for mental health patients.

71. Are acutely mentally ill patients that meet criteria for involuntary treatment commitment referred to an off-site hospital for treatment? If so, which hospital are they transported to?

Answer: Inmates are not transported to off-site hospitals for mental health treatment.

72. How many mentally patents are housed in Special Management Unit housing?

Answer: It varies on any given day. There are 3 units that are acute mental health housing and 3 step down units.

73. Are there mental health graduate school internship programs currently in the facility?

Answer: No.

74. How many group therapy sessions are held weekly and what are the subject matters addressed?

Answer: No groups are being held due to COVID.

75. Is the facility's medical unit operated as an official infirmary?

Answer: No.

76. Are nurse sick calls and provider clinics conducted in the medical unit? Is there a special area in the segregation unit for provider clinics or are these inmates brought to the medical unit for these visits?

Answer: As many duties that can be performed in the housing units are done there. Where segregated patients are seen are dependent on the patient's circumstance. Some are seen in the clinic area and some are seen cell side.

77. Are medication passes and segregation rounds the only medical/mental health services provided within the living units, except for responses to emergencies?

Answer: No as many duties as can are performed in the housing units.

78. Will medical staff have access to the internet through the County's internet system?

Answer: yes.

79. Will the County provide technical support for computers and other office equipment?

Answer: As far as technology is involved, any software or hardware needs to be approved by FBCSO prior to purchase to make sure everything is compatible with our systems and network or are approved by County IT for county reasons.

Any specialty, medical or other office equipment other than what FBCSO provides should be supported by their technical support, including supplies such as paper, toner or ink.

80. Is WI-FI available in the Jail's medical unit and in the living units?

Answer: Yes.

81. How many computers will be available for use by medical and mental health staff? Will they be desktop or laptop computers? Will they be equipped with cameras for video conferencing/telehealth?

Answer: 21 desktops, 12 laptops. Most are equipped with cameras.

82. Will the County consider the use of telehealth and tele-psychiatry to supplement on-site staff services, especially for specialty visits?

Answer: Yes.

83. Please provide a copy of the current contract.

Answer: You can view the agreement and amendments here.

https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/mindocs/2017/CCTR/20171024_2999/minutes/2856_39H%20signed%20agreement.pdf

https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/mindocs/2018/CCTR/20181023_3116/minutes/2958_34B_signed_agreement.pdf

https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/mindocs/2019/CCTR/20191001_3269/minutes/3097_24i_signed_renewal_amendment.pdf

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https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/mindocs/2021/CCTR/20211214_3590/minutes/3401_28E_signed_amendment_.pdf

84. What medical and mental health positions are currently vacant?

Answer: FT LVN night shift, 2- FT MHP evening shift, PT LVN weekends.

85. What Is the function of the current LVN Transport Nurse?

Answer: Coordinate all paperwork necessary for inmates leaving our facility to other facilities, and for inmates coming to our facility from other facilities. Coordinate all ordering of necessary supplies and equipment. Coordinates all annual equipment inspections. State TB reporting and oversight of testing in the facility. Any other tasks as delegated.