



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**THROUGH:** Nadia Chandler Hardy, Neighborhood and Community Services Department Director  
**FROM:** Pamela Duncan, Human Services Division Manager  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** **Request for Resolution – Direct Funding of Mental Health Program – December 16, 2014**  
**DATE:** December 9, 2014

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**SUMMARY:**

The City of Tacoma Human Services Division is recommending adoption of direct funding to MultiCare Behavioral Health & Outreach Services in fulfillment of the City’s goal of jail and hospital diversion through the funding strategy of enhanced support of mental health and substance use disorder services supported by the City’s 2015-2019 Human Services Strategic Plan and funded through the City’s .1% Mental Health Chemical Dependency (MHCD) Sales Tax.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Strengthen and support public safety, human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma.
- Encourage and promote an open, effective, results-oriented organization.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the past, the City of Tacoma has entered into direct funding for human or social services when it met the City’s needs. On May 8, 2012, Council adopted Resolution 38483 approving an Implementation Plan directing the use of tax revenues collected pursuant to Sections 6A.70.045 and 6A.70.046 of the Tacoma Municipal Code. The Implementation Plan called out five priority funding goals; the first goal to achieve reduction of costly interventions. Jail and hospital diversion is one of the most effective methods for reducing costly public intervention of police and emergency support services.

Neighborhood and Community Services have been working for two years on the development and implementation of a police co-responder program where mental health professionals will be embedded within the police department responding to calls for service when officers identify assistance by a mental health professional would best serve the interests of the community. The fully developed program calls for MultiCare Behavioral Health to provide the professional mental health support to the police department.

The City Manager’s 2014 Goals specifically call for staff to: Implement a Mental Health Co-Responder Program in the Tacoma Police Department as a means to partner with mental health professionals for the purposes of efficiently and appropriately dealing with those citizens that police officers identify as needing mental health services. (NCS/TPD)

On July 24, 2014, staff members representing the Tacoma Police Department and Neighborhood and Community Services made a joint presentation before the Public Safety Human Services and Education Committee seeking support for the collaboration effort of NCS and TPD to launch a co-responder program utilizing the City’s .1% MHCD dollars. Members of the Committee gave their full support.

**ISSUE:**

Organizations with a specialty in Tacoma dually addressing serious mental illness and criminal justice are rare. Partnership with an organization that understands the complexity of criminal justice and mental



illness is critical to successfully embedding professionals within a police department. City staff representing the police department and neighborhood and community services travelled with partner MultiCare Behavioral Health to Oleta, Kansas to shadow a successful co-responder program. The City has developed a strong confidence in the partnership with MultiCare throughout the recent months and believes they are the right partner to lead the mental health component of the City's Co-Responder Program.

The City has carefully and collaboratively developed a Co-Responder Program that supports not only the interests of our police department, but more specifically tailored services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. We come before the Council seeking a resolution approving the direct funding of MultiCare Behavioral Health & Outreach Services in the amount of \$319,462 for the biennium 2015-2016.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City has established three forms of funding contracts under the City's .1% MHCD revenue: Direct Negotiation, Open Competitive Funding, and Competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) funding. Neighborhood and Community Services has conducted due diligence in selecting the community partner best positioned to implement the co-responder program. While the City has carefully selected MultiCare, and did, in fact, meet with other large community providers of mental health care to solicit their interest in partnering on this program, the City Manager and Council could require Neighborhood and Community Services to solicit a mental health partner through either an open competitive or RFP funding process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is our recommendation that Council approves:

1. Direction to the City Manager to recommend and directly negotiate a contract with MultiCare Behavioral Health & Outreach Services for the provision of two mental health professionals, supervision, education and indirect administrative costs in the amount of \$319,462.00.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1185-MHCD	858200	5330100	319,462
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>319,462</b>

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1185-MHCD	858200	4313250	319,462
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>319,462</b>

**POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:**

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
<b>TOTAL</b>			

*This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.*

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$319,462 (2015-2016 Budget)**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes**