
Transition from Jail to Community Program Contract

Follow Up to Committee Questions

Detailed Timeline

- Fall 2016: Contractor alerted to City's intent to bid new contract as required by XO 8
- March-July 2017: Independent Contractor performs needs assessment to inform future RFP
- July 31, 2017: As required by XO 8, RFP was issued. Notice sent to distribution list of ~200, published in Daily Journal and on denvergov.org. Receipt of notice acknowledged by CRP/CNDC
- Sept. 11, 2017: RFP closed with 6 responsive bids
- Sept. 26, 2017: Selection committee met and narrowed to top 3 proposals, setting interviews with all 3
- October 11, 2017: Interviews held; recommended findings go to CPCC

Detailed Timeline, cont.

- October 18, 2017: CPCC met and recommended the selection of La Raza Services, Inc. in a public vote
- Nov. 16, 2017: Executive Director of DHS approved recommendation
- Nov. 17, 2017: La Raza notified of award
- Dec. 5, 2017: Contract negotiations begin
- Jan. 12-Jan. 19, 2018: Scope of Work and budget finalized/approved
- Jan. 25, 2018: Contract signed
- Feb. 12, 2018: Resolution Request submitted for council action

Selection Panel Considerations

- Written proposals were scored based on written responses
- Interview process allowed greater discussion and elaboration from bidders
- Cumulative evaluation of written and interview responses resulted in changed ranking of responses and ultimate award recommendation
- Through the interview process, La Raza Services, Inc.'s focus on collaboration, existing experience in providing services including workforce, job training, housing assistance, and mental health programming, ability to leverage partners in the community and diverse staff were factors in awarding the contract

Contract Provisions Based on Needs Assessment

In 2017, JVA Consultants performed a needs assessment and solicited community/stakeholder feedback to inform service needs in a new RFP and contract. This contract reflects identified needs as recommended through the assessment:

- Coordinated services to complement DSD programs in jail and additional offerings in the community after release
- Community planning outside the jail setting with multiple sites and services
- Extended service hours (12 hours/day and Saturday hours)

Services Provided in Jail By DSD & Contract Staff

Providing opportunities/programs to inmates in custody is a priority of DSD. Programs occur both through DSD staff and through contract/partner relationships

- Existing programs in the jail have been stretched to address inmate needs for interim period while re-entry services contract is put in place
- Programs include: GED classes, substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral education, yoga, Project Bedtime Story, and faith-based program services
- DSD also contracts with Denver Health for mental health services, High Acuity Treatment and transition units
- Program and contract staff work closely and collaboratively with uniform staff to coordinate program service referrals and ensure services are completed

Status of Board of Ethics Actions

- Complaints filed against city staff members have been dismissed
- BOE consideration of two other complaints are ongoing, expected to be resolved at the end of the month
- In the case of this contract award, the complaints against community volunteers on CPCC were mitigated by the corrective actions taken in both instances (either recusal from voting or removal of scoring by that participant)

Recap - Contract Terms

- Contract with La Raza Services, Inc.
 - Partners include La Raza Services, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and Urban League of Metro Denver working together as the
Transition Jail to Community Collaborative (TJCC)
- 1 year term
- \$550,000 (source: CPCC funds)

Recap - Scope of Services

- Cooperation and collaboration among criminal justice and community partners
- Screening & assessments while participants are still incarcerated to create transition plan
- Pre- and post-release service delivery based on specific needs
- Intervention strategies with mental health/substance abuse services
- Assist with job search and employment services
- Assist with housing referrals, transportation, food, clothing, and necessities prior to release
- All services in English and Spanish with access to other languages and to serve other abilities