



Legislation Text

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## Contract Request Template (Contracts; IGAs; Leases)

**Date Submitted: 7-4-2022**

**Requesting Agency: Department of Public Health and Environment  
Division:**

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**Phone Number:**

**Item Title & Description:**

*(Do not delete the following instructions)*

*These appear on the Council meeting agenda. Initially, the requesting agency will enter a 2-3 sentence description. Upon bill filling, the City Attorney's Office should enter the title above the description (the title should be in **bold** font).*

*Both the title and description must be entered between the red "title" and "body" below. Do **not** at any time delete the red "title" or "body" markers from this template.*

**A resolution approving a proposed Amendatory Agreement between the City and County of Denver and Mental Health Center of Denver for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and who may also be unhoused, or housing challenged.**

Amends a contract with Mental Health Center of Denver doing business as WellPower by adding \$3,710,344 for a new total of \$8,249,882 and one year for a new end date of 12-31-22 for continued short-term crisis stabilization and transitional sheltering at the Solutions Center for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and who may also be unhoused, or housing challenged, citywide (ENVHL-202263121). The last regularly scheduled Council meeting within the 30-day review period is on 8-18-22. The Committee approved filing this item at its meeting on 7-6-22.

**Affected Council District(s) or citywide? Citywide**

**Contract Control Number:** ENVHL-202263121

**Vendor/Contractor Name (including any "DBA"):** Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) doing business as WellPower

## **Type and Scope of services to be performed:**

The Behavioral Health Solutions Center (BHSC) provides critical mental and behavioral health support services including crisis stabilization, substance use treatment and short-term in-patient treatment for mental and behavioral health issues. The program supports jail diversion efforts and the community to ensure people from all walks of life receive necessary mental health treatment 24/7 to mitigate crisis. The BHSC is operated by Wellpower and thus far has successfully developed a diversion model for first responders, including any law enforcement, fire department/EMT units, designated mental health professionals, and hospital emergency department social workers. The BHSC has served over 1200 unique individuals and provided over 10,000 services since opening its doors in July 2021. Example services include:

- Crisis support
- Transitional Housing
- Psychiatric Medication Management
- Group Psychotherapy
- Peer Support
- Individual Case Management
- Rehabilitation Services

The awarded vendor will also be required to work proactively with the Sun Valley Community Coalition (“SVCC”) to maintain a positive relationship in working with and in the community.

Please note due to staff changes, extensive budget negotiations and understanding the true costs of operations at the BHSC this contract has been delayed in getting executed since the beginning of the year.

## **MHCD will providing the following services under this contract agreement.**

### **I. CRISIS INTERVENTION/STABILIZATION CLINIC**

#### **1. Clinical Services**

Services will include: Screening, assessment, crisis intervention, and behavioral health treatment for up to ten (10) days. Crisis stabilization services will assist individuals who are voluntary in a safe and secure environment. These persons are not in need of a hospital level of care and are not appropriate for jail (e.g. non-violent individuals contacted by police). The goal of the crisis stabilization service is to provide: assessment, stabilization, treatment, and re-integration into the community. The clinic will offer the following general services:

- a. Screening and nursing assessment
- b. Behavioral Health Assessments/Triage
- c. Crisis stabilization (including behavioral health medication)
- d. Treatment supervised by a psychiatrist and provided by appropriate mental health clinicians and medical staff. This includes group and individual therapy.
- e. Case management and connection to community services

Treatment provided will focus on: de-escalation and crisis management, psychiatric assessments, treatment planning, interventions and therapy, and medication management.

#### **2. Individuals to be served: The Solution Center will accept individuals who are experiencing a behavioral**

health crisis and who have had significant interaction with the city of Denver's first responders. This includes any law enforcement professionals, fire department/EMT units, and designated mental health professionals.

3. Specific Services to be Offered

Below is a list of specific services to be offered at the Solution Center. MHCD may propose additional services to be offered at the Solution Center in addition to the services below, as value add services:

- a. Trauma informed crisis response in accordance with C.R.S. 27-65
- b. Triage/screening (20 point assessment including suicidality/homicide)
- c. Service needs assessment
- d. Psychiatric assessment
- e. Treatment planning
- f. 24/7 Monitoring/supervision
- g. Peer support
- h. De-escalation and crisis management
- i. Brief therapy
- j. Medication management
- k. Physical health assessments and coordination with medical services
- l. Service coordination and referrals to other community organizations
- m. Benefit application and ability to access benefits and/or bill insurance (private, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) as appropriate
- n. Discharge planning and referrals

4. Additional General tasks:

- a. Overall facility management: This includes security, staff, materials/supplies, and general maintenance. Refer to sample contract for additional information.
- b. Management of all health records, data management, reporting and information sharing.

5. Coordination and Collaboration

- a. Coordination of crisis services will be provided to every individual served. Coordination includes but is not limited to: identifying and linking individuals with available services necessary to stabilize the crisis, ensuring transition to routine and follow-up care, active discharge planning. Coordination may also include coordination with appropriate law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

6. Coordination of Care will be provided with Non-Profit and Private Agencies, The Criminal Justice System, Existing Behavioral Health Treatment Options, and Homeless Service Providers.

- a. MHCD shall ensure that the Solution Center is connected to appropriate higher level of care placements as well as long term-options for patients being discharged from the BHSC, to promote the development of a comprehensive system.
- b. MHCD will work with behavioral health organizations and housing providers to ensure that clients are provided ongoing resources.

II. STEP DOWN SERVICES

1. Transitional Shelter Services will be available to homeless individuals referred directly from the Triage service, the Crisis Stabilization Unit and MHCD's Walk in Center.
  - a. Sleeping accommodations will be provided.
  - b. Accessory support services and connections to longer term housing options and/or

comprehensive supportive housing, trauma-informed interventions, and treatment opportunities will be offered to persons served in the housing accommodations.

- c. The primary services offered will be safe, secure, transitional sleeping accommodations, and individuals using these services will have access to traditional MHCD services including case management as appropriate.
2. The transitional shelter floor is designed to be a “step-down” opportunity that provides secure sleeping accommodations for homeless individuals while they transition to other options that build upon their stabilization.

3. Individuals Served

Persons who are homeless in Denver and referred directly from the Triage (onsite) or Crisis Stabilization Unit (onsite), and persons who are homeless in Denver that are referred from MHCD’s Walk-In Center.

4. Primary Services Offered

Safe, secure, individual sleeping accommodations. Shelter staff are available to assist with the following: vital documents, benefit applications, employment applications, connection to care and community resources, and discharge planning.

5. Accessory Support Services

In addition to the primary services offered, the transitional housing will coordinate with the Crisis Stabilization Unit to provide the following support services:

- a. Medication management
- b. Access to limited medical services such as first aid and treatment provided at the CSU

6. Additional General task/s MHCD will be responsible for:

- a. In addition to initializing and running the program scope of work above, MHCD shall also be responsible for the following tasks:
  - i. Complete facility management. This includes all security, staff, materials/supplies, general maintenance. Refer to sample contract for additional information.
  - ii. Maintenance of all appropriate records.
  - iii. Coordination and communication with appropriate City personnel.

7. Coordination and Collaboration

- a. MHCD shall establish connections and maintain relationships to longer-term housing options, especially supportive housing.
- b. In the case-management process, MHCD shall identify and link individuals with all available services necessary to ensure transition to follow-up care and routine care, provide necessary assistance in accessing those services, and conduct follow-up to determine the need for additional services and support.

### III. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. In addition to performing the scopes of work listed above (either individually or in a partnership), MHCD shall also participate in the following.
  - a. Performance Management & Evaluation
    - i. MHCD shall participate and must cause its partner organizations to participate in process/program performance measurement and evaluations that are initiated by the City.

This includes working with designated City staff in ensuring data entry and data integrity efforts regarding client data in an excel database and participation in collecting performance measures.

- ii. In addition to City data requirements, MHCD shall enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (permissions will be granted) and/or any required database.
- iii. To evaluate the program, some duplication of data may be required. Reviews of performance may include but are not limited to:
  1. operations management,
  2. client outcomes, and successful service referrals.
- iv. MHCD will ensure its staff and its partner organizations are trained on the database(s) and populate information in a timely and accurate manner and is familiar with data performance measures.
- v. MHCD shall maintain and provide, and cause its partner organizations to maintain and provide, data records as requested by the City and its partners for performance management/evaluation.

2. Neighborhood Impact

- a. The City believes that a proactive and ongoing relationship with the Sun Valley neighborhood, particularly the Sun Valley Community Coalition (SVCC) is important to the success of the Center.
- b. The City expects MHCD to engage the neighborhood organization in the development of a good neighbor agreement and to develop a process for ongoing communication.

3. Reporting & Communication

- a. MHCD shall be required to coordinate with appropriate City personnel to develop a reporting structure.
- b. Different types of reports may be requested at various intervals, including daily, quarterly, or yearly.
- c. MHCD shall also be required to maintain statistical data of facility use for the duration of the contract.

**Location (if applicable):**

**WBE/MBE/DBE goals that were applied, if applicable (construction, design, Airport concession contracts):**

**Are WBE/MBE/DBE goals met (if applicable)?**

**Is the contract new/a renewal/extension or amendment? Amendment**

**Was this contractor selected by competitive process or sole source?  
Comp.**

**For New contracts**

**Term of initial contract:**

**Options for Renewal:**

**How many renewals (i.e. up to 2 renewals)?**

**Term of any renewals (i.e. 1 year each):**

**Cost of initial contract term:**

**Cost of any renewals:**

**Total contract value council is approving if all renewals exercised:**

**For Amendments/Renewals Extensions:**

**Is this a change to cost/pricing; length of term; terms unrelated to time or price (List all that apply)? Length and amount**

***If length changing***

**What was the length of the term of the original contract?**

12/01/20-12/31/21

**What is the length of the extension/renewal?**

**One year**

**What is the revised total term of the contract?**

12/01/20-12/31/22

***If cost changing***

**What was the original value of the entire contract prior to this proposed change?**

\$4,539,538

**What is the value of the proposed change?**

\$3,710,344

**What is the new/revised total value including change?**

\$8,249,882

***If terms changing***

**Describe the change and the reason for it (i.e. compliance with state law, different way of doing business etc.)**