

March 12, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary to amend Contract No. 35599 with St. Mary Medical Center Foundation of Long Beach, CA, to continue providing required specialized services tracking cases of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and serving as a liaison between the hospital, CARE Clinic, and the City's Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department), to increase the contract amount by \$10,627 for a revised annual contract amount not to exceed \$180,000, and extend the term of the contract to June 30, 2026, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods; and,

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary to amend Contract No. 35724 with The Children's Clinic "Serving Children and Their Families," (dba TCC Family Health), of Long Beach, CA, to continue providing required specialized services for hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment, to increase the contract amount by \$11,749 for a revised annual contract amount not to exceed \$105,000, and extend the term of the contract to June 30, 2026, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods. (Citywide)

**DISCUSSION**

City Council approval is requested to amend Contract No. 35599 with St. Mary Medical Center Foundation, and Contract No. 35724 with TCC Family Health to continue providing as-needed, on-call public health and human services. The breakdown of each contract is further defined beneath the headers in this section.

At its meeting on May 21, 2019, the City Council awarded contracts to 51 vendors as part of its adoption of RFQ HE18-099 for as-needed, on-call public health and human services (Health Bench) in an annual aggregate amount of \$4,100,000, with a fifteen percent contingency in the amount of \$615,000, for a total annual aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,715,000, for a period of two years, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods.

Contracts No. 35599 and 35724, were competitively awarded through the Health Bench for RFQ HE-18-099 and are set to expire on May 21, 2024. Currently, there are no plans to establish a new Health Bench.

The Health Department is requesting an amendment to extend the duration of a few contracts beyond May 21, 2024. This request is due to the time-limited grant funding, unique program needs, ensure cost effectiveness of continuing successful community programs several years into a contract, and to optimize public tax dollars and City of Long Beach (City) staff and resources.

Initiating a new procurement process for several projects successfully underway would interrupt and negatively impact the flow of services on a community level, jeopardize grant funding, increase the cost due to project re-implementation, and substantially impact staff resources. A significant amount of time and City resources would be required to successfully onboard potential new vendors midway into existing projects with unique requirements but could also impact established community trust. Amendments are requested due to the impact these projects have on a community level, with each characterized by its own unique needs and requirements. Additionally, the projects are seamlessly meeting and exceeding performance metrics, advancing scopes of work that positively impact racial and health equity efforts, and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are utilized efficiently, maximizing its value and impact.

The Health Department is committed to continuously assessing the projects along with the guidance and support from the Department of Financial Management Purchasing Division and the City Attorney's Office in determining the best path forward to ensure no gaps in services while maintaining fidelity to the City's procurement process policies.

**St. Mary Medical Center Foundation (Contract No. 35599)**

City Council approval is requested to amend Contract No. 35599 with St. Mary Medical Center Foundation to continue providing critical community services including serving as a liaison between the hospital, CARE Clinic, and the Health Department, with tracking STD cases, STD screening, outreach, education and referrals, including people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing situations. The current annual contract amount is not to exceed \$169,373. The revised annual contract amount is not to exceed \$180,000, and extending the term of the contract to June 30, 2026, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods. This amendment is intended to follow previous City Council action and provide continuity while taking advantage of available grant funding.

St. Mary Medical Center Foundation's exemplary performance and dedication have proven instrumental in meeting and surpassing Health grant requirements, consistently demonstrating an unwavering commitment to excellence in healthcare services, aligning seamlessly with the Health Department's goals. Their proficient team has not only met but exceeded the stringent standards set forth by Health Department grant requirements, ensuring the effective and efficient utilization of allocated funds.

Furthermore, the unique capabilities of St. Mary Medical Center Foundation sets them apart as one of the only clinics capable of fulfilling the Health Department's diverse range of grant specifications. Their comprehensive approach to healthcare addresses the specific needs outlined in the Health Department's grant, needing to partner with a clinic that is part of an Emergency Department, showcasing their ability to adapt and excel in various aspects of medical service delivery.

The positive impact that St. Mary Medical Center Foundation has had in the Long Beach community cannot be overstated. Their commitment to patient care, coupled with a track record of successful outcomes, highlights their indispensability in achieving the overarching objectives of the Health Department's grant initiatives.

For about three decades, the Health Department HIV/STI Surveillance Program has successfully addressed the increases in STIs and HIV in Long Beach by providing health education about the patient's infection and providing partner services to prevent re-infection. The Surveillance program works with providers in the community to ensure they are ordering the proper tests, diagnosing correctly, and have the ability to provide treatment for patients in their care.

The CARE Clinic was founded in 1986 in response to the AIDS crisis. The program primarily serves LGBTQ+ patients to directly serve those who are disproportionately impacted by these diseases. The program is a healthcare facility that not only provides inclusive HIV treatment and PrEP/PEP for the prevention of HIV, but also social services, dental care, housing assistance, and an on-site food pantry.

The Health Department's partnership with the CARE Clinic started in 2019. The CARE Clinic now has a community-embedded Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) that provides health education services in person. This has increased the success of reaching people for interviews and eliminates barriers.

#### **TCC Family Health (Contract No. 35724)**

City Council approval is requested to amend Contract No. 35724 with TCC Family Health to continue providing critical community services including specialized services in connection with hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment, which includes, but is not limited to, testing navigation, linkages to care, care coordination, and treatment, among vulnerable and underserved clients at high risk for hepatitis C, with an emphasis on priority settings. The current annual contract amount is not to exceed \$93,251. The revised annual contract amount is not to exceed \$105,000, and extending the term of the contract to June 30, 2026, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods. This amendment is intended to follow previous City Council action and provide continuity while taking advantage of available grant funding.

TCC Family Health is a vital partner in the community, operating various clinics strategically placed throughout the City of Long Beach. Their reach extends to those who are underinsured, ensuring that a diverse and often underserved population has access to top-notch healthcare, and are being served with compassion, care, and excellence.

Their commitment to providing the highest quality care has recently been reinforced by investing in the professional development of their staff in the realm of hepatitis C treatment. Three clinicians of TCC Family Health's team have successfully completed an intensive hepatitis C training course, equipping them with the latest knowledge and skills in the field. The Health Department is thrilled to witness and report the tangible benefits of the training materializing in the Long Beach community. The enhanced expertise of TCC Family Health's staff is contributing

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to improved patient outcomes and to the consistent achievement of positive results in hepatitis C treatment.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Anita Lakhani on February 21, 2024, Purchasing Agent Michelle Wilson on February 14, 2024, and Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on February 22, 2024.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action to amend Contracts Nos. 35599, and 35724, is requested on March 12, 2024, to ensure there is no interruption to services or grant funding availability.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

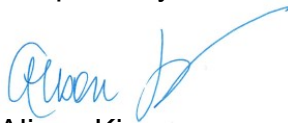
The requested action increases the Contract authority with St. Mary Medical Center Foundation by \$10,627 for a total annual contract amount not to exceed \$180,000; and increases the contract authority with The Children's Clinic "Serving Children and Their Families," (dba TCC Family Health) by \$11,749, for a total annual amount not to exceed \$105,000.

This is currently budgeted in the Health Fund Group in the Health and Human Services Department, offset by grant revenue. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

#### SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison King  
Acting Director  
Health and Human Services

APPROVED:



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THOMAS B. MODICA  
CITY MANAGER