

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NUECES COUNTY,
NUECES CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES,
AND NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

This Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on the Effective Date by and between Nueces County, herein “County”, the Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, herein “NCMHID”, and the Nueces County Hospital District, herein “NCHD” all whose principal offices are located in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. County, NCMHID, and NCHD may be referred to herein individually as “Party” and collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the County is a political subdivision of the State of Texas with police protection and detention powers as well as public welfare programs;

WHEREAS, the NCMHID is an agency of the State of Texas whose primary purpose is to provide mental health services in the community and the NCMHID has previously organized, operated, or directed local programs relating to the diversion of persons from jails or other detention facilities for the purpose of providing mental health services, including services for associated substance abuse issues, to those persons and such programs included crisis services and jail diversion, magistrate courts orders and pre-trial diversion, local competency restoration, and other similar and related programs; although such programs were generally considered successful by parties associated with them then, said programs were eventually ended due to loss of funding;

WHEREAS, the NCHD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas whose duty is to furnish medical aid and hospital care to indigent and needy persons residing within the NCHD’s boundaries and §281.094, Texas Health & Safety Code enables the NCHD to use funds from non-tax sources to fund health care services, including mental health services with Commissioners Court approval;

WHEREAS, the County requested that NCHD fund certain mental health-related programs to be provided by or through NCMHID relating to diversion of persons from jails or other detention facilities, including Crisis Intervention Teams, Jail Diversion, expansion of mobile crisis outreach, and development of jail-based competency restoration for the purpose of providing mental health services, including services for associated substance abuse issues, and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code, Chapter 791, as amended, authorizes contracts between local governmental agencies to perform governmental functions, inclusive of §791.025, Texas Government Code which permits agreements (interlocal agreement) between local governments for the purchase of goods and services and satisfies the requirement of local governments to seek competitive bids for the purchase of goods and services

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and undertakings herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

SECTION I
DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 1.1 Terms Stated Above. For the purposes of the Agreement, the terms “Agreement,” “County,” “NCMHID,” and “NCHD” shall have the meanings indicated above.
- 1.2 Additional Terms. For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned below:
- 1.2.1 “Jail Diversion and Crisis Intervention Services” individually, the terms “Jail Diversion” and “Crisis Intervention Services” mean as follows: (a) the term “Jail Diversion Services” means pre and post-booking services that identify individuals with serious mental illness and/or a substance abuse/dependence disorder in contact with the justice system and redirect them from incarceration to community-based mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and support services as appropriate; and (b) the term “Crisis Intervention Services” means a pre-booking assessment and Jail Diversion service providing a specialized mental health response to law enforcement requests for assistance involving individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. The aggregate term “Jail Diversion and Crisis Intervention” means Jail Diversion Services that includes Crisis Intervention Teams and Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Services.
- 1.2.2 “Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services” means services to restore the competency to stand trial to an individual found by a court to be incompetent to do so due to an active mental illness or an intellectual disability.
- 1.2.3 “Services” means the Jail Diversion, Crisis Intervention, Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach, and Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services provided by NCMHID under this Agreement.
- 1.2.4 “Crisis Services” means a continuum of services that aim to de-escalate the crisis in a safe setting, relying on a client-centered approach that is respectful and provides the individual with supports to minimize the crisis.
- 1.2.5 “Agreement Sum” means the amount not to exceed One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,990,250) paid under this Agreement by NCHD to NCMHID during the Agreement Term.
- 1.2.6 “NCMHID Cost or Costs” means the cost or costs incurred by NCMHID that are completely attributable to and associated with NCMHID's production of Services under this Agreement excluding any costs for items related to capital building repairs and/or improvements.
- 1.2.7 “Monthly NCMHID Expense Reimbursement” means the Agreement Sum paid by NCHD to NCMHID as reimbursement for costs over the Term, subject to the limitation set forth in Section 5.13.

- 1.2.8 “County Costs or Costs” means the cost or costs incurred by County that are completely attributable to and associated with NCMHID's production of law enforcement Crisis Intervention Services by the Sheriff under this Agreement.
- 1.2.9 “Monthly County Expense Reimbursement” means the monthly amount paid by NCHD to County as reimbursement for monthly County Costs over the Term, subject to the limitation set forth in Section 5.13.
- 1.2.10 “Jail Diversion and Crisis Intervention Services Costs” means the direct cost or costs incurred by NCMHID in its provision of Jail Diversion, Crisis Intervention, and Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Services under this Agreement. For purposes of this Subsection, "Crisis Intervention Services Costs includes law enforcement officers and/or law enforcement vehicles related to and associated with NCMHID's production of law enforcement Crisis Intervention Services by law enforcement agencies.
- 1.2.11 “Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services Costs” means the direct cost or costs incurred by NCMHID in its provision of Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services under this Agreement.
- 1.2.12 “Participant” means an individual in contact with the justice or law enforcement systems that has consented to, is enrolled in and is receiving or has received one or more of the Services.
- 1.2.13 “Sheriff” means Nueces County Sheriff and/or employees of the Nueces County Sheriff’s department.
- 1.2.14 “Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs” means Director of Mental Health Programs or any employee of the Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs department.

SECTION II
AGREEMENTS OF NUECES COUNTY

County agrees as follows:

- 2.1 Provision of Work Spaces and Facilities. To provide, at its sole cost and expense, the necessary work spaces, physical facilities (including a space suitable for a mock-court), jail staff to assist in provision of services in providing NCMHID access to Participant(s) located within the Nueces County Jail and all related public utilities required by NCMHID to provide the Services under the Agreement.
- 2.2 Facilitation and Coordination of Services. To facilitate and coordinate interaction between any County Departments with NCMHID, that NCMHID believes necessary in provision of Services under the Agreement.

- 2.3 Implementation of Cloud 9 Telehealth Platform – Pilot Program. The Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the program with NCMHID, Nueces County Sheriff’s Department, Nueces County District Attorney’s Office, Corpus Christi Police Department and other appropriate law enforcement departments that will utilize the Cloud 9 Telehealth Platform. The department will manage and distribute Cloud 9 licenses to users as necessary. In consultation with Cloud 9 representatives, The Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs will have access to reports from data provided under this platform.
- 2.4 Data Usage to Measure Improvement of Crisis Programs. It is important for Nueces County to determine measures of success for the crisis system as a whole and for individual crisis programs. A quality improvement process is a healthy, non-punitive approach to openly discuss successes and shortcomings of any program. Data in section 3.4 of this agreement should be used for the following objectives:
- To establish baseline performance
 - To reduce use of ineffective solutions
 - To monitor change to ensure improvement over time
- 2.5 Goals. Develop goals (“County Goals”) to be achieved by NCMHID and County Collaborative partners, for each of the Services during the Agreement Term. The County Goals shall include both operational and outcome objectives for each Service.
- 2.6 CIT Officers. County will provide CIT Officers between the hours of 7:00 a.m. thru 11:00 p.m. daily to function with NCMHID as co-responders.
- 2.7 Monthly Reports. County will provide data in it’s possession pertaining to the activities of their CIT Officers related to this agreement as requested by NCMHID or NCHD.

SECTION III
AGREEMENTS OF
NUECES CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

NCMHID agrees as follows:

- 3.1 Jail Diversion, Expanded Crisis Intervention, Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Services. To provide Jail Diversion, Expanded Crisis Intervention, and Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Services as requested and defined utilizing all available resources described herein. NCMHID will provide data as requested regarding the number of Participants per month, and utilization of resources dedicated to diversionary and crisis intervention services as facilitated and coordinated by County with the Corpus Christi Police Department, Nueces County Sherriff’s Department, Nueces County Courts, Nueces County District Attorney’s Office, City Detention Center, Municipal Courts, Cenikor Recovery Center and NCMHID.
- 3.2 Implementation of Cloud 9 Telehealth Platform – Pilot Program. With the Nueces County Director of Mental Health Programs, NCMHID will collaborate with Nueces County Sheriff’s Department, Nueces County District Attorney’s Office, Corpus Christi Police Department and other appropriate

law enforcement departments that will utilize the Cloud 9 Telehealth Platform. NCMHID will work with Cloud 9 representatives to provide information for populating Cloud 9 to allow for successful operation of program. NCMHID will be responsible for obtaining compatible devices (i.e. i-pads) for use with Cloud 9 along with garnering the network agreements with the service provider of their choice plus cost associated with NCMHID contracting with Cloud 9 to provide services, i.e. licenses etc for the program . NCMHID will be responsible for the distribution and management of the network accessible tablets to all collaborative users.

- 3.3 Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services. To provide Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services as defined herein utilizing all available resources to treat all individuals eligible while in Nueces County Jail. NCMHID will provide data as requested regarding the number of Participants per month, and utilization of resources dedicated to Jail Based Competency Restoration services as facilitated and coordinated by the County.
- 3.4 Progress Reports. To submit quarterly reports or other progress periods as requested to County, NCHD and Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs describing NCMHID's progress toward accomplishment of the County Goals during the preceding quarter or other progress period as requested.

In addition, submit the reports to the Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs Director and any party herein who requests the reports as follows:

Monthly Reports

- Number of referrals from NCMHID for MH/SA.
 - Number of referrals for MH/SA which are assigned to NCMHID CIT/CMOT or Crisis Hotline for Face-to-Face assessment.
 - Number of referrals from NCMHID for MH/SA who were placed on safety plan and given a clinic appointment.
 - Number of referrals from NCMHID for MH/SA who were placed on safety plan, given an appointment who returned for the appointment.
 - Number of referrals from NCMHID for MH/SA who were referred/placed on Emergency Detention Warrants (EDW) and admitted to Inpatient Psychiatric Appointment.
 - Number of referrals from NCMHID for MH/SA who were referred/placed on EDW and not admitted to Inpatient Treatment.
 - Number of admissions to MHID discharged from Inpatient Treatment within the last 7 days.
- 3.5 Service Utilization Information. To submit quarterly Program-specific information to County and NCHD on each NCHD funded Program's utilization of each Service during the preceding quarter.
- 3.6 Sustainable Funding. To undertake reasonable efforts to identify and obtain sustainable funding, including private and public grants, for future Services. Provide summaries of grant submissions along with commentary from reviewers on grants awarded and rejected to the Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs and any party herein who requests this information.
- 3.7 Coverage. Ensure adequate staffing of professional personnel for coverage of each Service.

- 3.8 Expense Reimbursement Request Submission. Not later than the tenth (10th day of each month during the Term), NCMHID shall submit a detailed itemized written invoice to NCHD requesting Monthly NCMHID Expense Reimbursement for each Service provided during the preceding month (the "NCMHID Payment Request"). The NCMHID Payment Requests shall include a Net NCMHID Costs Schedule as described in Section 3.8 below.
- 3.9 Net NCMHID Costs Schedule. As a part of the NCMHID Payment Request, NCMHID shall provide a sufficiently itemized written schedule, in a form acceptable to NCHD, detailing the monthly NCMHID Costs of each Service; the Schedule shall be net of all associated revenue received by NCMHID for the Services, and any Sustainable Funding received by NCMHID (see Section 3.5 above), and clearly show the resulting difference (the "Net NCMHID Cost Schedule"). When requested by NCHD, NCMHID shall provide detailed supplemental information about any revenues and NCMHID Costs items shown in the Net NCMHID Cost Schedule
- 3.10 Repayment. In the event the Net NCMHID Cost Schedule shows that the sum of the revenue received by NCMHID for the Services, and any Sustainable Funding received by NCMHID, exceeds the sum of the NCMHID Costs, NCMHID shall remit to NCHD the excess amount within thirty (30) days (the "NCMHID Repayment Amount").
- 3.11 Disputed Net NCMHID Cost Schedule Amounts. After receipt of a written notice from NCHD disputing any Net NCMHID Cost Schedule amount(s), NCMHID will meet in good-faith with NCHD to discuss and resolve any disputed amount(s). In the event the disputed amount(s) cannot be resolved between the two parties within thirty (30) days of NCHD's written notice of disputed amount(s) to NCMHID, then NCMHID shall pay NCHD the NCMHID Repayment Amount and/or remove the disputed amounts, as applicable.
- 3.12 County Jail Access. NCMHID agrees to abide by any security protocols required by the Sheriff when working in the Nueces County Jail(s). The Sheriff may deny access to such jail(s) in his sole discretion should he determine the access to be a security risk.
- 3.13 Cooperation. NCMHID agrees to fully consult, assist, and cooperate with any County and NCHD third-party consultants or employees as requested concerning review of the Services provided under the Agreement. NCMHID will act in good faith when consulting, assisting, and cooperating with these consultants and/or employees. Further, NCMHID agrees to fully consult, assist, cooperate, and provide requested information to the Nueces County Department of Mental Health Programs for review of Services funded through this agreement.

SECTION IV
AGREEMENTS OF NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

NCHD agrees as follows:

- 4.1 NCMHID Expense Reimbursement. After receipt of the NCMHID Payment Request, NCHD shall review and approve Cost Schedule and reimburse NCMHID, subject to section 4.2 below, the amount of the Request; the reimbursement shall be remitted to NCMHID not later than the thirtieth (30th) day following receipt of the Request.

- 4.2 Disputed Net NCMHID Cost Schedule Amounts. Upon receipt of the Net NCMHID Cost Schedule, NCHD shall send to NCMHID within fifteen (15) days following receipt of said Schedule a written notice identifying any associated amount(s) disputed by NCHD and to meet in good-faith with NCMHID to discuss and resolve any disputed amount(s).
- 4.3 Disputed County Costs Invoice Amounts. Upon receipt of a County Payment Request, for a prior written approval of expense, NCHD shall send to County within fifteen (15) days following receipt of the Request a written notice identifying any associated amount(s) disputed by NCHD and to meet in good-faith with County to discuss and resolve any disputed amount(s).

SECTION V
AGREEMENTS BY ALL PARTIES

County, NCMHID, and NCHD agree as follows:

- 5.1 Effective Date, Termination Date, and Term. This Agreement shall begin on October 1, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. (the “Effective Date”) and end September 30, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. (the “Termination Date”). The term of this Agreement shall be interval between the Effective Date and Termination Date, inclusive of said Dates (the “Agreement Term”).
- 5.2 Mutual Agreements. The Parties agree to the respective agreements of each Party and Party combinations set forth herein wherever same may be expressed in this Agreement.
- 5.3 County Control. County exercises no control over NCMHID, or its respective agents, employees, or contractors in carrying out its provisions of this Agreement, except that County shall facilitate and coordinate NCMHID’s provision of Services with the relevant personnel of and within the work spaces and facilities of the County’s judicial, law enforcement, and jail systems. County exercises no control over NCHD, or its respective agents, employees, or contractors in carrying out its provisions of this Agreement, except that Nueces County Commissioners Court shall approve the amount NCHD pays to NCMHID for Services during the Agreement Term. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating an employer/employee relationship between County and NCMHID or between County and NCHD.
- 5.4 NCMHID Control. NCMHID exercises no control over County or NCHD, or their respective agents, employees, or contractors in carrying out their provisions of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating an employer/employee relationship between NCMHID and County or between NCMHID and NCHD.
- 5.5 NCHD Control. NCHD exercises no control over County or NCMHID, or their respective agents, employees, or contractors in carrying out their provisions of this Agreement, except that NCHD’s Board of Managers is statutorily required to budget and approve the aggregate annual amount NCHD reimburses NCMHID and County for Services during the Term. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating an employer/employee relationship between NCHD and County or between NCHD and NCMHID.

- 5.6 Captions and Headings. The captions and headings used in this Agreement are for convenience only and do not limit the contents of the Agreement.
- 5.7 Privacy/Confidentiality/Use of Medical Information. The Parties agree that certain information, reports, and data created under this Agreement may be subject to applicable privacy and confidentiality of medical information and medical record laws, and the Parties agree to comply in all material respects with such laws. The Parties also agree to take any and all reasonable precautions to prevent disclosure or misuse of any and all medical information, records, reports, and data resulting from this Agreement for any purpose unrelated to providing the Services and which are unrelated to the administration of this Agreement.
- 5.8 Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including any schedules, exhibits, or amendments shall constitute the entire agreement of the Parties concerning the provision of services and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous representations, statements, understandings, negotiations, and agreements, either oral or in writing, between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter herein and all such prior or contemporaneous representations, statements, understandings, negotiations, and agreements, both oral and written, are hereby terminated upon the Effective Date.
- 5.9 No Subcontracting or Assignment Binding Effect. No party shall subcontract or assign their duties, obligations, or responsibilities under this Agreement to any other party or parties without the prior written consent of each other party. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns.
- 5.10 Liability. Each Party to this Agreement will be responsible for its own actions in providing services under this Agreement and shall not be liable for any civil liability that may arise from the provision of services by any other Party.
- 5.11 Insurance Coverage. Each Party providing a service under this Agreement shall provide, at its sole cost and expense, commercial or other similarly performing insurance providing general liability, worker's compensation, and professional liability coverages for its employees and/or contractors providing services under this Agreement.
- 5.12 Notices. Any requests, replies, notices, or demands for or permitted by a Party under this Agreement must be in writing and shall be sent by registered or certified United States mail or by a recognized commercial carrier or delivery services as follows:

County: Nueces County Judge
901 Leopard St., Room 303
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3697

With a copy to:
Nueces County Attorney
901 Leopard St., Room 207
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3680

NCMHID: Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
Attn: Chief Executive Officer
1630 S. Brownlee Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404-3134

NCHD: Nueces County Hospital District
Attn: Administrator/Chief Executive Officer
555 N. Carancahua St., Suite 950
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-0835

With a copy to:
Nueces County Attorney
Attn: Hospital District Counsel
901 Leopard St., Room 207
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3680

- 5.13 NCHD Maximum Annual Expenditure. NCHD shall not pay NCMHID more than the Agreement Sum for NCMHID's provision of the Services under Section 1.2.5 of this Agreement during the Agreement Term. NCHD shall not have any additional payment obligations to NCMHID under this Agreement during the Agreement Term or thereafter. NCHD shall not have any expenditure obligations to County under this Agreement during the Agreement Term or thereafter.
- 5.14 NCHD Funds. NCHD's payment for NCMHID's performance of governmental services pursuant to this Agreement must be made from non-tax source funds.
- 5.15 Annual Appropriations. The Parties mutually agree and understand that NCHD's funding under this Agreement is subject to annual appropriations by NCHD and that each fiscal year's funding, if applicable, must be included in the budget for that year and is not effective until approved by NCHD's Board of Managers and then approved by Nueces County Commissioners Court.
- 5.16 Compliance with Laws. All parties agree to comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws, regulations, and rules that may pertain to each Party's performance under this Agreement.
- 5.17 Acknowledgment of Federal HIPAA Obligations. The Parties acknowledge their mutual responsibilities as covered entities under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P. L. 104-191 (the "HIPAA"). The Parties acknowledge that federal regulations relating to the privacy of individually identifiable health information require covered entities to comply with the privacy standards adopted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, as they may be amended from time to time, 65 Fed. Reg. 82462-82829 (Dec. 28, 2000) and as modified by amendments adopted on August 14, 2002, 67 Fed. Reg. 53264 (the "Privacy Standards"). The Privacy Standards require covered entities to ensure that business associates who receive confidential information in the course of providing services to or on behalf of a covered entity comply with certain obligations regarding the privacy of health information. However, the Parties further understand that the Privacy Standards specifically state that a business associate relationship is not established when a health care provider discloses administrative information. Accordingly, the Parties agree that language sufficient to satisfy the business associate requirements set forth in the Privacy Standards is not required in this Agreement; however, the

Parties shall agree to take any other further actions that are necessary from time to time to ensure the parties' mutual compliance with the Privacy Standards.

- 5.18 Amendment. This Agreement may be amended only by written mutual agreement of all parties and approved by the respective governing body of each of the parties at a publicly noticed meeting and signed by the duly authorized representative of the governing body of each party.
- 5.19 Governing Law. This Agreement has been executed and delivered and shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.
- 5.20 Venue. Venue for resolution by a court of competent jurisdiction of any dispute arising under terms of this Agreement, or for enforcement of the provisions of this Agreement, shall be in Nueces County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, §15.015.
- 5.21 Severability. If any term(s) or provision(s) contained in this Agreement is or are determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, illegal, or unenforceable, in whole or in part, then the other term(s) and provision(s) contained herein shall remain in full force and effect as if the term(s) and provision(s) which was determined to be void, illegal, or unenforceable had not been contained herein.
- 5.22 Records and Access. Upon written request of County, or any of their duly authorized agents or representatives, NCMHID shall make available to County those records, books, and documents necessary to verify the status, nature, extent, and amount of any and all Services provided by NCMHID during the Agreement Term. Upon written request of NCHD, or any of its duly authorized agents or representatives, NCMHID shall make available to NCHD those records, books, and documents necessary to verify the nature and extent of costs, expenses, and services provided during the Agreement Term.
- 5.23 Officer's Authority. Each of the officers who have executed this Agreement on behalf of their respective Party and hereto warrants that he has the power and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of such Party and to bind such Party to the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

AGREED, SIGNED, and ENTERED by the duly authorized officers of Nueces County, Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, and Nueces County Hospital District on the dates hereinafter indicated.

NUECES COUNTY
("County")

By: _____
Barbara Canales.
Nueces County Judge

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Kara Sands
County Clerk

J. C. Hooper
Nueces County Sheriff

Date: _____

NUECES CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
(“NCMHID”)

By: _____
Mike Davis
Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
(“NCHD”)

By: _____
Jonny F. Hipp
Administrator/Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____