



**NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**  
Administrative Offices

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**MEMORANDUM**

May 19, 2020

To: **Nueces County Judge and Commissioners Court**

From: **Board of Managers**

Subject: **Mental and Behavioral Health Plan for Nueces County**

Honorable Judge and Commissioners:

Please find attached the Mental and Behavioral Health Plan for Nueces County. The Plan was developed by the Board of Managers and approved on May 19, 2020 for presentation to you for your thoughts and input. The Plan considers both the current situation and future needs for mental health services in the County.

When the Board of Managers has received your input, we will prepare a final document and provide for your approval.

Could you acknowledge receipt below?

County Judge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Canales

Commissioner, Precinct 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Vaughn

Commissioner, Precinct 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe A. Gonzalez

Commissioner, Precinct 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Marez

Commissioner, Precinct 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Chesney

**MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF NUECES COUNTY PROGRAM**

The Nueces County Hospital District (“NCHD”) will enter into a NCHD Access Agreement with a Provider who provides mental health and Behavioral Health services to NCHD patients but can also accommodate a community need in accordance with the following requirements. All of these services will be provided to NCHD patients for the Access Fee stated in an NCHD Access Agreement.

**Inpatient Services**

1. Provider will build a new hospital facility within Nueces County, specifically, the City of Corpus Christi that is dedicated to mental and behavioral health (the “Facility”).
  - a. The Facility will be either a NCHD publically financed/owned, Public Private Partnership (PPP) or privately financed/owned, the NCHD will not contribute funds toward its construction, operation or maintenance as it will be built on privately owned property.
  - b. It is our preference that the facility be located within close proximity of an emergency department and the Nueces County Jail.
  - c. Should the Facility be privately owned by Provider, NCHD will reserve the first right of refusal in purchasing the Facility at fair market value should the contract terminate by either party or renewal of contract is not executed.
  - d. Referencing C above, NCHD will require a 6-9 months’ notice should Provider decide to terminate or not renew agreement.
  
2. Provider will maintain a capacity of no less than sixty (60) (Reference Meadows study) inpatient beds at the Facility.
  - a. Provider will ensure that inpatient beds at the Facility are available to all NCHD patients at all times for the Access Fee.
  - b. Additional beds will be used to provide community-wide care to insured and uninsured patients as Provider determines appropriate in its discretion.
  
3. Provider will operate a 24 x 7 x 365 assessment and evaluation center at the Facility.
  - a. In house skilled staff will be available 24 x 7 x 365 to triage patients with mental health and/or behavioral health needs. Telemedicine is acceptable as directed by medical staff.
  - b. In house skilled staff will be available 24 x 7 x 365 to determine the appropriate level of patient care and coordinate patient flow. Telemedicine is acceptable as directed by medical staff.

4. Provider will operate an Adult Crisis Unit at the Facility
  - a. The Adult Crisis Unit will be available to patients eighteen (18) years and older who are experiencing acute mental and/or behavioral health issues.
  - b. Judicial patients will be accepted.
  - c. Collaboration with Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) as feasible.
  
5. Provider will operate an Adult Stabilization Unit at the Facility.
  - a. The Adult Stabilization Unit will be available to patients eighteen (18) years and older and focus on providing services and resources needed by patients who are no longer in crisis so that those patients can safely return to the community.
  - b. The Adult Stabilization Unit will offer multiple therapeutic interventions for those patients.
  
6. Provider will operate a Child/Adolescent Unit at the Facility.
  - a. The Child/Adolescent Unit will be available to patients between the ages of ten (10) and seventeen (17) years old and provide a range of multidisciplinary treatments to include family interventions.
  - b. The Child/Adolescent Unit will offer a program for following up with patients after discharge.
  
7. Provider will operate a Neuro-Geropsychiatric Unit at the Facility.
  - a. The Neuro-Geropsychiatric Unit will be available to patients regardless of age to provide acute stabilization, diagnosis and management for cognitive disorders.

### **Outpatient Services**

1. Provider will operate an outpatient clinic in conjunction with and preferably in close proximity to the Facility.
  - a. One or more clinicians and skilled staff will be available at the outpatient clinic during business hours.
  - b. The outpatient clinic will provide a range of outpatient mental health and behavioral health services to adult, child, adolescent and geriatric patients.
  - c. All outpatient services will be available to NCHD patients per the Access Fee.
  
2. Provider will operate intensive outpatient programs at the outpatient clinic.
  - a. An intensive outpatient program will be provided to offer drug and alcohol treatment during evening hours to accommodate scheduling with patients who work during clinic regular hours.
  - b. An intensive outpatient program will be provided to offer individual and group psychotherapy on a weekly basis.

3. Provider will offer support and guidance services for families and senior citizens.

### **Educational Component**

1. Provider will work in collaboration with colleges and universities along with school districts, law enforcement agencies, social services programs and medical facilities to provide educational resources to the community on mental and behavioral health topics.
2. Provider will work in collaboration with local colleges and universities to offer hands on training and practicum experience to students enrolled in related fields of health care.
3. Provider will aim to create an affiliate university level research or residency based program.

### **Quality Assurances**

1. Provider will implement and comply with relevant/associated quality assurance and improvement program that establishes standards and goals and measures performance in the following areas.
  - a. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) defined quality measures for Behavioral Health.
  - b. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Quality Indicators.
2. Provider will monitor quality assurance performance data on a regularly scheduled interval and will report to NCHD as prescribed.
3. Provider will be responsible for evaluation and enhancement of the quality assurance improvement program to ensure that the program is accomplishing the goal of promoting best practices and processes that will result in overall better care for each individual patient and the population as a whole.