



ITEM NO. (ID # 4607)

DATE: 09/05/2017

AGENDA REQUEST

\*CONSENT AGENDA\COUNTY ATTORNEY

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**PRESENTED BY:** Roy Hudson, Criminal Justice Coordinator

**SUBMITTED BY:** County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Funding Request for a Case Manager for Mental Health Court

**BACKGROUND:**

This is a funding request for a Case Manager for Mental Health Court. Mental Health Court hears cases that are both misdemeanors and felonies. The goal of Mental Health Court is to provide services along with resources for mentally ill defendants involved in the criminal justice system.

On June 6, 2006, Judge Cox held the first Mental Health Court session at the St. Lucie County Courthouse. A case manager position was put in place over nine (9) years ago in order for the court to provide services to the mentally ill defendants. The case manager also provides coordinating treatment which include working with and developing individually tailored treatment plans for an array of services including medication management, supported living, employment, education, rehab and housing opportunities, as well as peer support. This position also helps defendants apply for federal benefits.

New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc., partners closely with the courts and criminal justice system to provide a broad range of mental health and substance abuse services. As a nonprofit corporation providing residential and outpatient mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation for over 50 years it has been the primary local provider of substance abuse and mental health services. New Horizons is the only program in the County that can provide the services needed to achieve the overall goal of reducing the criminalization of the mentally ill within the correctional and judicial system, and to reduce the rate of recidivism of the mentally ill. The attached contract provides for New Horizons to serve as the Mental Health Court Case Manager.

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

The Board has funded this position since 2007 for the same amount of requested funds.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**


Sufficient funds are appropriated in "Contract Labor" account of the Criminal Justice/Legal Counsel Division for the \$65,000 contract (107-2360-534300-200).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board deem New Horizons as the provider in accordance with F.S. 287.057 (3)(e)(6), and enter into a contract with New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc. for staffing the Case Manager Position that works in the Mental Health Court, and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract. The contract will continue services for the next fiscal year (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018).

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

**Coordination/Signatures**

  
Jennifer Hill, Interim Office of Management and Budget Director 8/24/2017