



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 20-1223A, **Version:** 1

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### **Subject:**

Agreements with Directions for Mental Health, Inc., Operation Par, Inc., and Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida, Inc. for the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of the agreements with Directions for Mental Health, Inc. d/b/a Directions for Living, Operation Par, Inc., and Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida, Inc. for the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI).

- CABHI provides mental health and substance use treatment to individuals and families that have been recently housed, and have a serious mental illness, emotional disturbance, substance use, or co-occurring diagnosis.
- Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, CABHI has enrolled 270 clients through March 2020. There are 110 clients currently active in the program.
- These Agreements are a continuation of the CABHI program effective from October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2023. Funding in an amount not to exceed \$700,279.00 is included in the FY21 Proposed Budget.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Ensure Public Health, Safety and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community

2.2 Be a facilitator, convener and purchaser of services for those in need

2.4 Support programs that seek to prevent and remedy the causes of homelessness and move individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

### **Summary:**

These three (3) Agreements provide continuation funding for CABHI. Under CABHI, Directions, PAR, and Westcare will continue providing collaborative behavioral health and substance use services to recently housed individuals and families at risk of homelessness. CABHI services include in-home counseling and peer support.

Since FY17, CABHI has enrolled 270 clients through March of 2020 with 110 clients currently active. CABHI partner collaboration has been key in CABHI success, the team holds weekly meetings to staff new clients and problem solve encountered barriers.

**Background Information:**

In August of 2016, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded the County a three-year grant to implement the CABHI program. In FY20, the Board approved a recurring decision package to maintain the program and continue providing supportive services to help with stability for newly housed individuals.

CABHI provides mental health and substance use treatment to individuals and families that are at risk of homelessness, have been recently housed, and have a serious mental illness, emotional disturbance, substance use, and/or co-occurring diagnosis. CABHI staff utilize engagement strategies to build relationships with clients and provide collaborative services to help clients maintain housing.

Since inception, the CABHI program has served 270 individuals and families with a serious mental illness or co-occurring substance disorder. The CABHI program has been able to demonstrate enhanced engagement with clients, resulting in clients remaining open and engaged in services for an average of 297 days. For clients who remain engaged in the program for 6 months, 77% have remained housed.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding to support these agreements is included in the FY21 Proposed Budget.

Total FY21 contract amount for approval is not to exceed \$700,279.00, effective October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021.

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Directions      | \$278,493.00        |
| Operation PAR   | \$211,636.00        |
| <u>Westcare</u> | <u>\$210,150.00</u> |
| FY21 Total      | \$700,279.00        |

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Daisy Rodriguez, Director, Human Services

**Partners:**

Directions For Living  
Operation PAR, Inc.  
Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida, Inc.

**Attachments:**

Directions Agreement  
Operation PAR Agreement  
Westcare Agreement