

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



COLLEEN HAMPSEY,
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 630-3403

Bill Type and Number: 2022-90

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Salem

Date of Introduction: February 8, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, R

Date of Analysis: February 9, 2022

Type of Action: Appropriation, agreement authorizations, *Ordinance Code* exception and waivers, and designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: This bill is an appropriation of \$600,000 from Mental Health Offender Program Trust Fund to provide funding for a jail diversion program for mentally ill misdemeanor offenders to be managed by the Sulzbacher Center; the Mental Health Initiative Jail Coordinator will be managed by the court system. This legislation authorizes several funding agreements: 1. between the City of Jacksonville and the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Inc. for a MHOP Program Manager and two Intensive Care Managers, totaling \$407,850; 2. between the City of Jacksonville and the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida to provide for a Mental Health Initiative Coordinator at \$78,750; 3. between the City of Jacksonville and the Public Defender of the Fourth Judicial Circuit to provide for .54 of a FTE Public Defender for the MHOP Program at \$56,700; 4. between the City of Jacksonville and the State Attorney's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit to provide for .54 of an FTE State Attorney for the MHOP at \$56,700.

Exceptions to Section 126.107(g), *Ordinance Code* for professional services from: the Sulzbacher Center; the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida to provide for a Mental Health Initiative Coordinator; the Public Defender of the Fourth Judicial Circuit; and the State Attorney's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit, as such procurement is exempted from competitive solicitation because the services are to be provided by those specifically prescribed within authorizing legislation.

Waivers of Section 118.107, Part 1, Chapter 118, *Ordinance Code* to allow for a direct contract with: the Sulzbacher Center (Sulzbacher began the nine-month pilot project, and a continuum of this service is desired to continue the program); with the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida (there is only one State Court system through which this program is administered); with the Public Defender of the Fourth Judicial Circuit (the Public Defender's Office are the only Public Defenders offered in the Fourth Judicial Circuit); and with the State Attorney's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit (the State Attorney's Office are the only State Attorney's offered in the Fourth Judicial Circuit).

Waivers of Section 118.201(f)(7), *Ordinance Code*, is requested to allow advance payments in excess of 10% to: the Sulzbacher Center, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida, the Public Defender of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, and the State Attorney's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit. The Office of Grants and Contract Compliance will oversee the project.

Background Information: MHOP is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their illness and reintegrate back into the community. Wrap around services include medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing and intensive case management that connects them to stable income through either job counseling and training or SSI, SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid and other community services. MHOP is a partnership between COJ, JSO, SAO, Public Defender, Duval Courts, and the Sulzbacher Center. This appropriation will enable MHOP to provide Sulzbacher funds for staffing services (program

manager, intensive care managers, travel expenses, office equipment, housing, pharmaceuticals and substance abuse treatment), and also funds for a courts program coordinator and related State Attorney and Public Defender's lawyers needed for the program.

Policy Impact Area: Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP)

Fiscal Impact: Appropriation of \$600,000

Analyst: Hampsey