

## Executive Summary Form

### Agenda Number: 3383 HLT

#### **Recommendation:**

Approval of a contract with Tucson Medical Center (TMC) to perform Title 36 medical clearances as necessary. The agreement will commence upon execution and run through 6/30/22 unless terminated by either party with 30 days' written notice at any time with or without cause.

**Background (Brief):** Nearly all our Title 36 clients are seen in Tucson, and often at Palo Verde mental health facility. Palo Verde is located on the same campus as TMC. We need a mechanism to efficiently receive medical clearance for our T-36 clients when necessary. Palo Verde does not require a medical clearance on every client; however, there are occasions when one is needed. We are entering this contract as a mechanism to receive medical clearance for our clients in the most efficient manner with the highest quality of service delivery. TMC and Palo Verde have a professional relationship, and as such, the TMC ER physicians will directly speak to the accepting psychiatry provider with Palo Verde regarding medical clearance.

In the past, we took all of our clients to Copper Queen or Canyon Vista, this often took in excess of 12 hours, and providers were not always willing to conduct a "doc-to-doc" discussion. Instead, our internal nurse practitioner would have to receive the report, read, and report to the receiving facility. This is not a best practice and doesn't meet the intent of assessing provider handoff. However, with Palo Verde a clearance is not always required, but in situations that it is, we will be able to have a facility who will evaluate with a report to the accepting physician.

This contract will provide a cost savings to the County for those medical clearances that are indicated for clients receiving T-36 evaluation in Tucson.

**Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources:** Cochise County will pay TMC a flat fee of \$250 for each medical clearance completed. This compares to approximately \$750-\$8,000 for medical clearances at Copper Queen or Canyon Vista.

Funded via General Fund: 100 6000 6210 431.322

**Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up:** Your approvals are respectfully requested.

**Impact of Not Approving:** Not approving this contact could result in an increase of medical clearance expenses and a heightened liability for three main reasons:

1. Clearance would be conducted at a local facility, resulting in increased staffing hours for the Sheriff's office, as well as for the health department for detention medical staff.
2. Length of time for clearance at local facilities takes several hours. In this time, clients often decompensate further, heightening liability for our officers and placing the client at risk, both factors increase our liability.
3. When clients are transported to Palo Verde the need for a medical clearance after arrival may present. Clients would be taken to the nearest ER (TMC), and without a contact, the county would be paying around five times more per clearance (and potentially more, dependent upon the needs).