

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR DIVERSION CENTER SERVICES WITH
TROPICAL TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

For this Memorandum of Understanding between Tropical Texas Behavioral Health (TTBH) and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Agency (LEA), both have commonly agreed upon a mutual concern for the residents in our community, and therefore we shall maintain a cooperative effort to provide services related to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use and mental health disorders. Parties to this agreement seek to improve public safety and provide alternatives to jails and psychiatric hospitals where appropriate through the collaborative referral to and provision of Diversion Center (DC) services at Tropical Texas Behavioral Health.

To comply with the purpose, definition and goals for the TTBH DC services as established by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; TTBH and LEA mutually agree that:

- TTBH offers DC services as an optional service to law enforcement agencies who commit to the terms of this agreement.
- The District Attorney establishes and maintains the criteria (offenses and other conditions) under which officers may consider the TTBH DC as an alternative to jail.
- TTBH's acceptance of a client is required for all transfers of individuals under law enforcement supervision or custody. Under no circumstances will a Law Enforcement Officer drop off a client on or near TTBH property without formal acceptance by TTBH staff according to established procedures (e.g. Diversion Center, MCOT/MHOT, etc).

Officers of the participating LEA will:

- Officer will make an initial determination that the proposed client is:
 - a) Eighteen years of age or older, AND
 - b) Not in mental health crisis requiring immediate in-patient psychiatric hospitalization, AND
 - c) Does not have indications of medical complications, AND
 - d) Is not intoxicated, AND
 - e) Is not combative, AND
 - f) Voluntarily agrees to go to, and follow the rules of, the DC
- Officer will call DC and initiate the Preliminary Screening prior to arrival at DC
- Officer will provide DC Staff information regarding circumstances of engagement and contact information to use if client leaves prior to planned departure.
- On arrival at DC, Officer will stay with the client until DC staff confirm the client has been accepted for admission.

TTBH DC staff will:

- DC staff will give LEA Officer preliminary indication of acceptance within 5 minutes.
- DC staff will maintain a target expectation to accept (or decline) the client within no more than 15 minutes of the officer's arrival to minimize the time that the officer must remain at the DC facility.

- DC staff will, for clients who successfully complete their DC stay, transition the individuals to the next level of care and arrange for follow-up in the community to increase community retention and decrease the probability of repeat involvement with law enforcement.
- DC staff will report to the referring officer any failures of the referred client to follow the rules of participation (aggressive acts or non-compliance) or to successfully complete their diversion plan (early departure).

The services provided under this agreement from Tropical Texas Behavioral Health are at no cost to LEA.

Confidentiality

Both parties agree to comply with all applicable rules/regulations regarding confidentiality to ensure all clients records related to services provided under this MOU, including eligibility for services, enrollment, and referral will be confidential, and will not be open to examination for any purpose not directly connected to the delivery of such services.

Termination:


This agreement is effective as of the last date signed below and will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to either party.

As a matter of individual and public safety, TTBH, at its sole discretion, may immediately terminate this agreement and discontinue the provision of this optional service to any agency that fails to follow the terms of this agreement.

**Hidalgo County
Health**

Tropical Texas Behavioral

Terry Palacios
Hidalgo County District Attorney
Date: _____



W. Terry Crocker
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 6-6-25

Sheriff Eddie Guerra
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department
Date: _____