

Mobile Outreach Team

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Agenda Request for Commissioners Court April 15, 2008

Request: Increase the department's administrative assistant work hours from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week.

Reason: The department's administrative assistant answers the phones, assists with purchasing, flex fund management, grant reports, billing, chart management, and general office operations.

Funding: The increase in cost (salary and benefits) will be completely funded by the department's contract with MHMR. General funds will not be used. See attached budget.

Request: Provide a stipend of \$3,000 per year / \$116 per pay period, to employees who work overnight shifts.

Reason: When the program was started employees were asked to work primarily business hours. Over time program hours were expanded to include evenings and weekends. As of December 1, 2007 the Mobile Outreach Team is required to respond to emergency mental health calls 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Employees are now required to work holidays and through the night with no change in compensation.

Funding: The increase in cost will be completely funded by the department's contract with MHMR. General funds will not be used. See attached budget.

Request: Hire a Registered Nurse on an hourly basis.

Reason: The department's contract with MHMR provides funding to hire an RN. A nurse is able to work with patients who are suffering from both physical and mental illnesses and work in concert with physicians to monitor medications. The department attempted to hire a full-time RN, but was unable to recruit experienced psychiatric nurses who were willing and able to respond to field calls and / or work nights and weekends for the salary offered. If the department is able to raise the hourly rate paid, we have a much better chance of recruiting a nurse, even if it is for 10-15 hours per week.

Funding: The increase in cost will be completely funded by the department's contract with MHMR. General funds will not be used. See attached budget.