

# **CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

THIS CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT ("Agreement") between Terri Abernathy, (hereinafter "Consultant") and Williamson County, Texas, a political subdivision of the State of Texas (hereinafter "County"), having an address of 710 Main Street, Suite 101, Georgetown, Texas 78626, sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which Consultant will provide certain services.

## **1. Consulting Services**

1.1 A statement of work ("SOW") is attached hereto and the terms therein are incorporated in this Agreement. Consultant agrees to perform the consulting services ("Services") as set forth in the attached SOW, and in any subsequently approved SOW referencing this Agreement, in a professional manner.

## **2. Term and Termination**

2.1 This Agreement will have a term or the length of the engagement set forth in the SOW.

2.2 Either party may terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon not less than thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the opposite party. County shall pay Consultant for all Services performed prior to termination.

2.3 If either party commits an Event of Breach (a breach of any of the covenants, terms and/or conditions of this Agreement), the non-breaching party shall deliver written notice of such Event of Breach to the breaching party. Such notice must specify the nature of the Event of Breach and inform the breaching party that unless the Event of Breach is cured within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice, additional steps may be taken to terminate this Agreement. If the breaching party begins a good faith attempt to cure the Event of Breach within said ten (10) days, then and in that instance, the said ten (10) day period may be extended by the non-breaching party, so long as the breaching party continues to prosecute a cure diligently to completion and continues to make a good faith attempt to cure the Event of Breach. If, in the opinion of the non-breaching party, the breaching party does not cure the Event of Breach within the above referenced ten (10) day period or otherwise fails to make any diligent attempt to correct the Event of Breach, the breaching party shall be deemed to be in breach and the non-breaching party may, in addition to seeking the remedies mentioned hereinafter and/or remedies available under the law, terminate this Agreement.

## **3. Payment and Taxes**

3.1 The services will be charged to County on a time basis not including travel or other reimbursable expenses. County agrees to pay Consultant the fees set forth in the SOW.

Unless specified otherwise in the SOW, Consultant will invoice County for Services. County's payment of the Services and Deliverables shall be governed by Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code. Invoices shall be paid by County within thirty (30) days from the date of the Williamson County Auditor's receipt of an invoice. Interest charges for any late payments shall be paid by County in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 2251.025. More specifically, the rate of interest that shall accrue on a late payment is the rate in effect on September 1 of County's fiscal year in which the payment becomes due. The said rate in effect on September 1 shall be equal to the sum of one percent (1%); and (2) the prime rate published in the Wall Street Journal on the first day of July of the preceding fiscal year that does not fall on a Saturday or Sunday. In the event that a discrepancy arises in relation to an invoice, such as an incorrect amount on an invoice or a lack of documentation that is required to be attached to an invoice to evidence the amount claimed to be due, County shall notify Consultant of the discrepancy. Following County's notification of any discrepancy as to an invoice, Consultant must resolve the discrepancy and resubmit a corrected or revised invoice, which includes all required support documentation, to the Williamson County Auditor. County shall pay the invoice within thirty (30) days from the date of the Williamson County Auditor's receipt of the corrected or revised invoice. County's payment of an invoice that contains a discrepancy shall not be considered late, nor shall any interest begin to accrue until the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day following the Williamson County Auditor's receipt of the corrected or revised invoice.

3.2 County agrees to pay the amount of any sales, value added, use, excise or similar taxes applicable to the performance of the SOW, if any, or County shall provide Consultant with a certificate acceptable to the taxing authorities exempting County from payment of such taxes.

#### **4. Intentionally Deleted**

#### **5. Confidential Information**

5.1 To the extent authorized by law, any business, operational, commercial, financial or technical information furnished by Consultant to County under this Agreement will remain Consultant's property, will be deemed proprietary, will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law, and will be promptly returned at Consultant's request. Except as otherwise required by law, County may not disclose, without Consultant's written permission, any such information or data to any third party, or use such information or data itself for any purpose other than performing its obligations under this Agreement. The obligations set forth in this section will survive the cancellation, termination, or completion of this Agreement.

5.2 To the extent authorized by law, any business, operational, commercial, financial or technical information provided by County to Consultant will remain County's property, will be deemed proprietary, will be kept confidential, and will be promptly returned at County's request. Consultant may not disclose, without County's written permission or as required by law, any such information or data to any third party, or use such information or data itself for any purpose other than performing its obligations under this Agreement. The obligations set forth in this Section will survive the cancellation, termination, or completion of this Agreement.

5.3 To the extent, if any, that any provision in this Agreement is in conflict with Tex. Gov't Code 552.001 *et seq.*, as amended (the "Public Information Act"), the same shall be of no force or effect.

Furthermore, it is expressly understood and agreed that County, its officers and employees may request advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas in regard to the application of the Public Information Act to any items or information furnished to County as to whether or not the same must be made available to the public. It is further understood that County, its officers and employees shall have the right to rely on the advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General, and that County, its officers and employees shall have no liability or obligation to Consultant for the disclosure to the public, or to any person or persons, of any items or information furnished to County by Consultant in reliance of any advice, decision or opinion of the Attorney General of the State of Texas.

## **6. Relationship between the Parties**

Each party to this Agreement, in the performance of this Agreement, shall act in an individual capacity and not as agents, employees, partners, joint ventures or associates of one another. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purposes whatsoever.

## **7. Intentionally Deleted**

## **8. Intentionally Deleted**

## **9. Limitation of Liability**

NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

## **10. Intentionally Deleted**

## **11. Dispute Resolution/Mediation**

The parties to this Agreement will work together in good faith to resolve any controversy, dispute or claim between them which arises out of or relates to this Agreement, whether stated in tort, contract, statute, bad faith, professional liability or otherwise ("Claim"). If the parties are unable to resolve the Claim within thirty (30) days following the date in which one party sent written notice of the Claim to the other party, and if a party wishes to pursue the Claim, such Claim shall be addressed through non-binding mediation under the Commercial Mediation Rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). A single mediator engaged in the practice of law, who is knowledgeable about subject matter of this Agreement, will conduct the mediation under the then current rules of the AAA. Any mediation under this Agreement shall be conducted in Williamson County, Texas. All costs involved in the mediation shall be borne equally between the parties, except that each party shall bear its own attorneys fees. Nothing herein is intended to prevent either party from seeking any other remedy available hereunder or at law, including seeking redress in a court of competent jurisdiction. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

The parties hereby expressly agree that no claims or disputes between the parties arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or a breach thereof shall be decided by any arbitration proceeding, including without limitation, any proceeding under the Federal Arbitration Act (9 USC Section 1-14) or any applicable state arbitration statute.

## **12. General**

12.1 Venue and Governing Law. Each party to this Agreement hereby agrees and acknowledges that venue and jurisdiction of any suit, right, or cause of action arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall lie exclusively in Williamson County, Texas, and the parties hereto expressly consent and submit to such jurisdiction. Furthermore, except to the extent that this Agreement is governed by the laws of the United States, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, excluding, however, its choice of law rules.

12.2 Force Majeure. If the party obligated to perform is prevented from performance by an act of war, order of legal authority, act of God, or other unavoidable cause not attributable to the fault or negligence of said party, the other party shall grant such party relief from the performance of this Agreement. The burden of proof for the need of such relief shall rest upon the party obligated to perform. To obtain release based on force majeure, the party obligated to perform shall file a written request with the other party.

12.3 Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof, but rather this entire Agreement will be construed as if not containing the particular invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligation of the parties shall be construed and enforced in accordance therewith. The parties acknowledge that if any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it is the desire and intention of each that such provision be reformed and construed in such a manner that it will, to the maximum extent practicable, give effect to the intent of this Agreement and be deemed to be validated and enforceable.

12.4 Successors and Assigns; Assignment. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns. No party to this Agreement may assign or transfer its interest in or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of all parties to this Agreement.

12.5 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is for the sole and exclusive benefit of the parties hereto and nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer or shall be construed as conferring upon any other person any rights, remedies or any other type or types of benefits.

12.6 No Waiver of Immunities. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to waive, modify or amend any legal defense available at law or in equity to County, its past or present officers, employees, or agents, nor to create any legal rights or claim on behalf of any third party. County does not waive, modify, or alter to any extent whatsoever the availability of the defense of governmental immunity under the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States.

12.7 County's Right to Audit. Consultant agrees that County or its duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of three (3) years after final payment under this Agreement, have access to and the right to examine and photocopy any and all books, documents, papers and records of Consultant which are directly pertinent to the services to be performed under this Agreement for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. Consultant agrees that County shall have access during normal working hours to all necessary Consultant facilities and shall be provided adequate and appropriate work space in order to conduct audits in compliance with the provisions of this section. County shall give Consultant reasonable advance notice of intended audits.

12.8 Appropriation of Funds by County. County believes it has sufficient funds currently available and authorized for expenditure to finance the costs of this Agreement. Consultant understands and agrees that the County's payment of amounts under this Agreement is contingent on the County receiving appropriations or other expenditure authority sufficient to allow the County, in the exercise of reasonable administrative discretion, to continue to make payments under this Agreement.

12.9 Conflicting Terms. In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the terms and conditions of the SOW, as amended, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall control.

12.10 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same document.

12.11 Entire Agreement. This Agreement (including any SOW attached hereto or subsequently approved by the parties) represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements or representations. This Agreement may not be modified or amended except in a writing signed by an authorized representative of each party. NO OFFICIAL, EMPLOYEE, AGENT, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY HAS ANY AUTHORITY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, TO AMEND THIS AGREEMENT, EXCEPT PURSUANT TO SUCH EXPRESS AUTHORITY AS MAY BE GRANTED BY THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT. It is agreed that the terms of this Agreement shall supersede the preprinted terms in any County purchase order or other ordering document.

WITNESS WHEREOF each County and Consultant has caused its authorized representatives to execute and deliver this Agreement below.

**TERRI ABERNATHY**

BY: 

DATE: March 27, 2023

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

BY: 

Bill Gravell (Apr 4, 2023 14:04 CDT)

Bill Gravell, Jr.,  
Williamson County Judge

## EXHIBIT A STATEMENT OF WORK

The following describes the Services shall be provided and accomplished by Consultant pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this SOW:

### **Scope of Work:**

Consultant shall provide program administration and development consulting services to support the Williamson County Family Recovery Court ("FRC") as follows:

- 1.1 Document Development. Consultant will assist in developing forms, checklists, guidebooks, and other documents related to the FRC Program;
- 1.2 Process Development. Consultant will assist in developing and documenting processes related to the FRC Program; and
- 1.3 Training Program Development. Consultant will assist in developing training modules for FRC team members and may deliver training as appropriate.

### **Time for Performance:**

The Service to be performed under this SOW shall commence March 27, 2023, and be completed on April 16, 2023.

### **Compensation:**

The maximum amount payable for all Services under the Agreement, without modification, shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

### **Rates:**

The rate for Consultant's Services shall be \$150.00 per hour.

### **Payment:**

Payment for the Consultant's Services shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.