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Agency of Human Services



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration
THROUGH: Doug Racine, Secretary of Agency of Human Services
FROM: Mark Larson; Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access
RE: Theresa Fortner – Contract #20807, Sole Source Request

PF for DR 11/3/11

The intent of the Vermont General Assembly expressed in Act 128 (2010) is to expand the Blueprint for Health to all *willing* primary care providers by October 2013. To support the implementation of this intent, the Contractor will serve as a Practice Facilitator (0.4 FTE) to coach 3 to 6 primary care practices, supporting them to become and maintain their status as Blueprint Advanced Primary Care Practices.

In the summer of 2010 DVHA placed an open bid to seek facilitators to fulfill this need. At that time three Contractors were chosen through a competitive bid process to perform the needed duties in three health services areas covered. Theresa Fortner was chosen as the most qualified bidder within the allowable funds for the contract for the Chittenden County health service area. The department intended to amend this contract, which didn't happen in time. This sole source is in lieu of that amendment.

Over the course of her contract, Ms. Fortner has proven herself a valued asset to the Blueprint program through the relationships she has developed within her assigned HSA along with state invested trainings she has completed. Through the execution of last year's contract, Ms. Fortner has demonstrated the skills and competencies to do the work within the allowable contract amount. Practice facilitation requires each contractor to develop a relationship with quality improvement teams in the primary care practices they serve. This relationship takes time and effort to develop, which is an expense to the State. Deploying new facilitators annually would affect relationship building and confidence of the practices, decreasing the effectiveness of the program and increasing costs.

DVHA feels it is in the best interest of the State as this time to seek sole source waivers for this contract for the reasons listed above. Due to the substantial investment by the State in this program we respectfully request that you grant a sole source waiver to contract directly with Ms. Fortner to expand the Blueprint for Health to all *willing* primary care providers. DVHA's funding for this contract will be covered by the Global Commitment to Health Appropriations and complies with all mandatory provisions of AOA Bulletin 3.5.

APPROVAL: _____

JEB SPAULDING, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

DATE

11/5/11

M *JL*
REC'D NOV 04 2011