
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: University of Vermont, Contract #23099, Sole Source Request

This sole source justification is for the University of Vermont to provide chief medical officer (CMO) and medical director support, as well as health services consultation and technical assistance, from October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2014. DVHA requires the services of a CMO and medical director to provide clinical leadership and to serve as administrative managers for all clinical activities within DVHA, including prior authorizations, grievance and appeals reviews, care management, utilization management and other activities as required by Medicaid or assigned by the Commissioner of DVHA. As Vermont's only academic medical center, UVM has the unique capacity to recruit medical professionals who will both fulfill DVHA's need for CMO and medical director services and expertise, and who will also hold faculty appointments at the University within their appropriate medical specialties. This arrangement benefits both entities through ongoing learning and information exchange and facilitates continuous professional development for the CMO and medical director.

DVHA also requires health services consultation and technical assistance in various and emerging programmatic, clinical management and evaluation for a number of improvement projects. These projects help DVHA meet state and federal requirements as a public managed care entity and enhance DVHA's effectiveness by helping identify needs, implement appropriate improvements and evaluate performance improvement initiatives. The University employs and has access to a breadth of medical, research and analytic resources that can be drawn upon at short notice to fulfill DVHA's needs in such areas as program evaluations, mental health and substance abuse reviews, and quality improvement initiatives, to name a few. As projects arise, UVM is able to quickly identify and deploy the appropriate personnel and resources needed to successfully plan and complete various projects. No other entity within Vermont provides the same breadth and depth of professional expertise and resources as are available through UVM.

UVM has done an exemplary job providing medical director support, consultation and technical assistance to DVHA for the past four years. Examples of completed or ongoing projects include children's developmental screening in physician offices, evaluation of the Vermont Chronic Care Initiative's Challenges for Change project, consultation and secondary reviews of psychiatric inpatient stays, and evaluation of office-based opioid dependence treatment. UVM has successfully planned and executed all projects and fulfilled a number of requests on very short notice. The staff's professionalism, vast experience and expertise in a variety of fields are clearly evident.

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Agency of Human Services

Performance measures have been added into the agreement ensuring that our contracted medical director and CMO render clinical decisions within the deadlines established by State and federal guidelines. The Contractor will forfeit a percentage of the quarterly payment in the event that the deadlines are not met.

For these reasons, putting this work out to bid would be a fruitless process. 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