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Randy White
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue

From: Randy White, Commissioner *Randy White*
Department of Juvenile Justice

Date: September 1, 2024

RE: 24 RS HB 6 – Department of Juvenile Justice Medical Services Contract Report

The 2024 Regular Session House Bill 6 requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to prepare a report detailing the specifics of any potential requests for proposal of a medical services contract.

24RS HB 6 appropriated \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26, the second year of the biennium, to support a medical services contract, including primary care and mental health services, for youth under the care of DJJ. The Department of Corrections (DOC) has given approval to DJJ to enter into preliminary discussions with Wellpath, LLC, the current medical services provider for the Department of Corrections, to determine if they are a suitable provider for all medical and mental health care services including, but not limited to, all general and specialty health care services provided by licensed health care professionals in all available and appropriate delivery methods (onsite, offsite, telehealth, mobile, etc.) to juveniles in the custody of the DJJ.

Wellpath, LLC meets both the American Correctional Association and the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards that are required for DJJ and has extensive experience in providing medical care in correctional settings, including youth facilities, nationwide. Wellpath, LLC has a robust staffing model established within Kentucky that currently operates statewide and which would allow for increased and consistent staffing within all DJJ facilities. Wellpath, LLC uses electronic medical records which would allow DJJ to maintain juvenile medical records electronically and end antiquated paper-based processes. Wellpath, LLC is also able to conduct drug screenings of both juveniles and staff, as well as physicals.

If DJJ determines that Wellpath is the most appropriate and effective option for provision of medical services, DJJ will request a modification to the current Personal Services Contract PON3 758 2400000181 between the Commonwealth and Wellpath, LLC to establish a contract rate applicable to DJJ-specific services.

In entering into any contract, the Commonwealth agrees to purchase only such services in such quantities as necessary to meet the actual requirements as determined by the Commonwealth. The Office of Procurement Services reserves the right to add new and similar items, by issuing a contract modification to this contract, with the consent of the vendor.

If DJJ determines that Wellpath is not the most appropriate and effective option for provision of medical services, or if the proposed rate for services exceeds the appropriation available to support these services, DJJ will issue an RFP for procurement of these services. The scope of work indicated in the RFP will require a provider for all medical and mental health care services including, but not limited to, all general and specialty health care services provided by licensed health care professionals in all available and appropriate delivery methods (onsite, offsite, telehealth, mobile, etc.) to juveniles in the custody of the DJJ. Procedures for conducting negotiations and the way in which proposals will be evaluated will be established by the buyer for each procurement and will be set forth in the request for proposals.

Following receipt of responses to the RFP, DJJ will determine which offers have met the general conditions of the RFP and are acceptable for award, and these proposals will be provided to the evaluation committee. Once the evaluation committee recommends a responsible offeror, determined to be the most advantageous to the Commonwealth, based upon the price and the evaluation factors set forth in the solicitation, the buyer will document the determination of award. At that time, the buyer will process a contract and notify the successful vendor of the outcome.