Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health

Request for Qualifications

RFQ 2305-001 Public Affairs Consulting Services



May 19, 2023

Contact: Central Health Purchasing Office 1111 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78702 Phone: 512-978-8157 Email: purchasing@centralhealth.net

PROPOSALS DUE: June 23, 2023 - 2:00 P.M. Prevailing Central Time

Request for Qualifications RFQ 2305-001 Public Affairs Consulting Services Procurement Schedule					
Action	Date	Time	Responsibility	Location / Details	
Solicitation Issue Date	Friday, May 19, 2023	5:00 PM	Central Health	BidSync and Central Health Website	
Site Visit (if applicable)	N/A	N/A	Central Health	N/A	
Pre-Proposal Conference	Friday, June 02, 2023	1:00 PM	Central Health	MS Teams	
Question Submittal	Friday, June 09, 2023	5:00 PM	Proposers	BidSync or purchasing@centralhealth.net	
Question Response	Friday, June 16, 2023	5:00 PM	Proposers	BidSync	
Proposal Submission	Friday, June 23, 2023	2:00 PM	Proposers	BidSync or 1111 E. Cesar Chavez, Austin TX 78702	
Proposals received after the Proposal Submission time at the designated location will not be considered.					
Protest Deadline	See Section II.A.11		Proposers		

RFQ Summary: Central Health is seeking a consultant(s) to support our local public affairs, strategic communications, and local government affairs efforts. Central Health wishes to partner with an entity/individual(s) who understands the unique and complex healthcare issues facing Travis County, our safety-net healthcare system, and the history, current state, and future of Travis County's Healthcare District dba Central Health.

Pre-Qualified Eligibility Duration: Thirty-six (36) months.

Notice to Respondents: Respondents should note that this Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") is published and accessible through electronic means. Respondents who received notification of this solicitation by means other than through any of the three websites listed below should register with BidSync in order to receive timely notification of any addenda, amendment, and/or other forms of information that may be issued prior to the solicitation submittal date:

http://www.centralhealth.net/finance/purchasing http://www.txsmartbuy.com/sp https://prod.bidsvnc.com/central-health

Registration is **free**.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Statement of Qualifications ("SOQ") Submission: Respondents are encouraged to submit their SOQ for this RFQ online via BidSync, as this is the preferred method of submission.

A secondary option is to deliver one (1) printed SOQ via USPS mail, FedEx, DHL, etc.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND CURRENT BUILDING ACCESS RESTRICTIONS, IF YOU PLAN TO DELIVER A PRINTED COPY TO THE PURCHASING OFFICE, YOU MUST CONTACT THE PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY PRIOR TO DELIVERY. The printed SOQ, with any supporting and/or sample documentation, must be delivered in a sealed container that is labeled and addressed as follows:

Attn: RFQ 2305-001 Public Affairs Consulting Services Central Health - Purchasing Office 1111 East Cesar Chavez Street Austin, TX 78702

Should a Respondent submit both the SOQ via BidSync and deliver a printed SOQ, the BidSync submission will be the submission of record and will be used for the purposes of the RFQ. Qualification statements submitted through any method other than 1) online via BidSync or 2) delivery of a printed original to the address above will not be considered.

It is the Respondent's sole responsibility to ensure that it obtains any and all addenda and/or amendments to this RFQ; addenda and amendments will be posted on BidSync and the Central Health Website by Close of Business (COB) on the day they are released. In the event of a conflict between a version of the RFQ in the Respondent's possession and the version maintained by Central Health, the version maintained by Central Health will control.

All responses must be submitted and/or delivered on or before the published closing date and time for receipt of Statement of Qualifications. SOQs received at the designated location after the published time and date will not be considered.

Do not include any price information within the SOQ. Statement of Qualifications containing any price information will be automatically disqualified.

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Attached
N/A
Attached
N/A
Attached
N/A

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Entity Background

The Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health ("Central Health") is a special purpose district created under Chapter 281 of the Texas Health and Safety Code that is responsible for providing hospital and medical care to the indigent and needy residents of Travis County. Together with its affiliates, the Community Care Collaborative, Sendero Health Plans, Inc., and Central Texas Community Health Centers d/b/a CommUnityCare (all four entities collectively, "TCHD Entities"), Central Health ensures low-income and uninsured residents receive timely access to quality health care services.

B. Purpose of Request for Qualifications

Central Health is seeking a consultant(s) to support our local public affairs, strategic communications and local government affairs efforts.

The successful consultant(s) will have deep and comprehensive knowledge of Travis County's political landscape and have established, trusted relationships with elected officials and their constituents at the city, county, state and federal levels – from small municipalities and towns to the City of Austin and Travis County Commissioners and associated staff.

Central Health wishes to partner with an entity/individual(s) who understands the unique and complex healthcare issues facing Travis County, our safety-net healthcare system, and the history, current state, and future of Travis County's Healthcare District dba Central Health.

Upon identification of a project for which services are required, Central Health's Procurement staff will select the most highly qualified consultant based on their SOQ to provide a response to an inquiry of interest and availability to perform the services for that specific project. If the firm has the interest and availability, they may be asked to respond to interview questions and/or make an oral presentation. If the availability and solution presented meets Central Health's needs, the firm will proceed to fee negotiations with Central Health.

A Contract maybe awarded to the most highly qualified firm for each specific project, assuming the selected firm is available to provide the requested services for a fair and reasonable price and is able to meet the Central Health's scheduling and functional requirements. If the most highly qualified firm is unable to meet the requirements of Central Health for any individual project, negotiations will be formally terminated by notice from Central Health's Procurement Authority, and the next most highly qualified firm will be selected for consideration. Central Health expressly reserves the right to reject any or all SOQ's or part(s) of any SOQ received in response to this RFQ and/or to solicit and contract with other entities for provision of the services related to this RFQ. It is not guaranteed that any Finalist will be awarded a project.

Central Health's Consulting Services Agreement (PSA) is attached as Exhibit G. Responding to the RFQ represents the Respondent's acceptance of the draft agreement, and all of its terms and conditions, as the contract to be entered into for work on any future project.

C. Procurement Authority

Central Health has designated a Procurement Authority who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement on behalf of Central Health; therefore, all deliveries (including SOQ delivery) shall be addressed as follows:

RFQ 2305-001 Public Affairs Consulting Services Central Health – Purchasing Office 1111 East Cesar Chavez Street Austin, TX 78702 purchasing@centralhealth.net

All inquiries or requests regarding this procurement should be submitted to the Procurement Authority by email at <u>purchasing@centralhealth.net</u>. Respondents shall ONLY contact the Procurement Authority regarding this procurement. Respondents shall NOT contact individual Central Health Board Members, Central Health executive team leaders, or Central Health staff regarding this solicitation. Such contact shall result in disqualification of the Respondent initiating the contact.

D. Definition of Terminology

This section contains definitions and abbreviations that are used throughout this procurement document.

"BidSync Website" is the following link: https://prod.bidsync.com/central-health

"Central Health Website" is the following link: http://www.centralhealth.net/finance/purchasing.

"Close of Business (COB)" means 5:00 PM Prevailing Central Time.

"Contract" means a written agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property or services, or both.

"Determination" means the written documentation of a decision by the Procurement Authority, including findings of fact supporting a decision. A Determination becomes part of the procurement file.

"Desirable" means that the terms "may," "can," "preferably," or "prefers" identify a Desirable or discretionary item or factor (as opposed to "Mandatory").

"Duly Authorized Representative" means the individual who is authorized to submit a Statement of Qualifications to this RFQ on behalf of the Respondent and to bind the Respondent to any Contract that may result from this solicitation.

"ESBD" is the following link: <u>http://www.txsmartbuy.com/sp</u>

"Mandatory" means that the terms "must," "shall," "should," "will," "is required," or "are required" identify a Mandatory item or factor (as opposed to "Desirable"). Failure to meet a Mandatory item or factor may result in the rejection of a Respondent's Statement of Qualifications.

"Principal" is a person in charge of an organization.

"Procurement Authority" means a person or designee authorized by Central Health to manage or administer a procurement requiring the evaluation of the RFQ responses.

"Request for Qualifications" or "RFQ" means all documents, including Attachments and Exhibits, that are issued by Central Health prior to the deadline for Responses and that describe the specifications or scope of services anticipated and identify the factors that will be used to evaluate a Respondent's qualifications. These documents are hereby incorporated by reference and considered a part of any Response from Respondents.

"Respondent" is any person or entity that submits their Statement of Qualifications in response to this RFQ.

"Responsible Respondent" means a Respondent who submits a Statement of Qualifications and who has furnished, when required, information and evidence to prove its demonstrated competence and qualifications, financial resources, production and service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate to satisfactorily perform the Services or provide items of tangible personal property described in the Statement of Qualifications.

"Responsive Statement of Qualifications" means a Statement of Qualifications ("SOQ") that includes all required documentation and conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the Request for Qualifications and earns a "Pass" determination from the Procurement Authority.

"Statement of Qualifications" or "SOQ" means a submission by a Respondent in response to this RFQ.

Unless the context suggests otherwise, the terms "Respondent," "Team," "Contractor," "Proposer," "Bidder," "Submitter," "Consultant," or "Vendor" as used in this RFQ (whether capitalized or not) shall refer to the same legal entity that submits a Statement of Qualifications and is responsible for responding to this RFQ.

II. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

This section of the RFQ describes all major events listed in the RFQ Schedule. The Procurement Authority will make every effort to adhere to the Procurement Schedule set forth in this RFQ.

A. Pre-qualification Submittal Conference or Site Walk

Not applicable for this RFQ, but may be necessary for individual projects.

B. Deadline to Submit Questions

Respondents may submit questions about perceived ambiguities or inconsistencies that exist within this RFQ or to seek clarification on the specifications or scope of services. Respondents may submit written questions via e-mail to <u>purchasing@centralhealth.net</u> or BidSync by Close of Business (COB) per the Deadline to Submit Questions Date as indicated in the Procurement Schedule on page 2 of this RFQ. A Respondent's failure to obtain clarification on any information

contained herein that is not fully understood may jeopardize Respondent's chances of being selected. Moreover, Respondent may not protest its exclusion on the basis that the RFQ was unclear.

C. Response to Written Questions

Written responses to all questions submitted by potential Respondents will be addressed in either a RFQ addendum or question and answer document that will be posted on BidSync by Close of Business (COB) per the Question Response Date as indicated in the Procurement Schedule on page 2 of this RFQ.

Any verbal statement made by Central Health regarding the RFQ prior to the award will be considered non-binding. The only formal interpretation of the RFQ will be made by addendum or a question-and-answer document issued by the Procurement Authority.

D. Submission of Statement of Qualifications

The Procurement Authority or designee must receive all SOQs for review and evaluation no later than 2:00 PM Prevailing Central Time on the published date indicated in the Procurement Schedule on page 2 of this RFQ. Statement of Qualifications received after this deadline will not be accepted. **Refer to Instructions for Submitting a Statement of Qualifications on page 3 of this RFQ.**

BidSync.com will automatically record the date and time of receipt of each correctly submitted SOQ.

Each printed SOQ delivered to the Central Health Purchasing Office address must be in a sealed envelope or container and will be manually date- and time-stamped upon receipt. A public log will be kept of the names of all organizations that submit SOQs. Unless required by law, the contents of any SOQ will not be disclosed to competing Respondents prior to the determination of Awardee (s).

E. Qualifications Evaluation

The Procurement Authority will evaluate responsive Qualification Statements using the evaluation criteria identified in Section VI.A (Narrative Prompts/Evaluation Criteria).

F. Selection of Finalists

The selection process may be conducted in two steps. In step one, the Evaluation Committee will evaluate and score written Proposals using the evaluation criteria identified in section VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA. Based on the scoring in step one, the Evaluation Committee, as step two, may develop a "short list" of Proposers who may be invited to interview with the Evaluation Committee. Only "short listed" Finalists will be considered for further evaluation and invited to participate in the subsequent steps of the procurement process.

G. Interviews of Short-listed Finalists

Based on step one of the selection process, Central Health, at its sole discretion, may determine that it is necessary to interview the short-listed finalists prior to recommend Contract award. If Central Health desires to conduct interviews, short-listed finalists will be invited to present their Proposals to the Evaluation Committee. The purpose of interviews, if conducted, is to ensure the Evaluation Committee's understanding of the Proposals and Proposer's qualifications, as well as, to evaluate the Proposer's team under the criteria set forth in section VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA. When conducted, interview scores will be used as an additional consideration for recommendation and award of a Contract. The Procurement Authority will schedule the time for each Proposer presentation, if applicable. All Proposer presentations will be held as virtual, conference call presentations. Each interviewee will be allowed forty-five (45) minutes for the presentation and fifteen (15) minutes for questions/answers.

No Minimum Amount of Assignments: It is expressly understood that Central Health is under no obligation to request any Inquiries from Respondents and no guarantee of contract award is implied or assured under this RFQ.

III. RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

A. Rights

1. Amending Statement of Qualifications

Any Respondent may submit an amended SOQ before the RFQ's closing date and time. Such amended SOQ must be a complete replacement for any previously submitted SOQ and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. Central Health will not merge, collate, or assemble SOQ materials.

2. Withdrawing Statement of Qualifications

Respondents will be allowed to withdraw their SOQ at any time prior to the RFQ's closing date and time for receipt of SOQs. To withdraw, the Respondent must submit a written withdrawal request signed by the Respondent's Duly Authorized Representative and addressed to the Procurement Authority.

3. Designating Statement of Qualifications Content as Confidential or Proprietary

Respondents may mark, stamp, or imprint the words "proprietary" or "confidential" on any pages or portions of the SOQ that include information of this type. However, proprietary or confidential information should be readily separable from the SOQ in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the other portions of the SOQ. Central Health will not sort, otherwise isolate, or redact proprietary or confidential information embedded within the body of the SOQ, except as required by law. Central Health is a public entity subject to the Texas Public Information Act. In the event a Respondent's materials are requested under the Act, any claim of confidentiality in a Statement of Qualifications must be submitted to the Texas Attorney General for an opinion in order to be withheld from release.

B. Obligations

1. Conditions and Contract Terms Associated with RFQ

Respondents must indicate their acceptance of all conditions governing the RFQ in their letter of transmittal. However, a Respondent's failure to do so will not operate to exempt Respondent from these conditions, as the act of submission itself constitutes acceptance of the conditions, including the evaluation criteria contained in section VI.A (Narrative Prompts/Evaluation Criteria) of this RFQ.

Additionally, Respondents must agree to include the terms contained within Exhibit G – Professional Services Agreement (PSA), which is incorporated in this RFQ, in any Contract

that results from this RFQ. If Respondent takes specific exceptions to that Contract, each exception must be specifically identified, and proposed substitute language provided in each instance. All such exceptions, if any, will be evaluated as a component of the Respondent's qualifications. Material exceptions will disqualify the accompanying SOQ. Minor exceptions must be satisfactorily resolved prior to the selection.

2. Costs Associated with Procurement

Any and all costs incurred by the Respondent in preparation, transmittal, and presentation of any SOQ or material submitted in response to this RFQ, or during any Negotiation process, will be borne solely by the Respondent.

3. Electronic Mail Address

Most of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (e-mail). Therefore, all Respondents must have a valid e-mail address to receive correspondence, and must monitor that email regularly.

4. Identification and Selection of Subcontractors

The term "subcontractor" includes sub-consultants. Respondent's intended use of subcontractors must be clearly explained in its SOQ, and major subcontractors must be identified by name. The Respondent will be wholly responsible for the entire performance of the Contract, whether or not subcontractors are used, and Respondent expressly acknowledges that in entering into such subcontract(s), Central Health is in no manner liable to any subcontractor(s). Awarded Respondent further acknowledges that Central Health will make Contract payments only to the awarded Respondent.

5. Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program and Good Faith Effort

Finalists will be required to make a "good faith effort" to ensure that certified HUBs have the maximum opportunity to participate as subcontractors in the performance of any project contract. Once a project is identified, an awarded firm's failure to carry out this "good faith effort" will constitute a breach of Contract and may result in termination of the project contract.

HUB contractors and subcontractors must be certified as a HUB, Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises, or Disadvantaged Business Enterprises by a recognized governmental program, such as:

- City of Austin;
- Texas Unified Certification Program;
- State of Texas; or
- Other certification entity recognized by Travis County, Texas

Any HUB subcontractor the Respondent intends to subcontract with at the time of responding to this RFQ will be required to submit a copy of its certification with the Respondent's SOQ. Certification copies shall accompany the Historically Underutilized Business Form, attached hereto as Exhibit D. Central Health reserves the right to verify any entity's HUB status prior to outreach for project inquiries and subsequent project contract award.

6. Suspension and Debarment Certification

The Respondent will certify by signing the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, attached hereto as Exhibit C, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that the Respondent and/or its Principals or subcontractors are not and have not been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of Contracts by any federal department or district.

7. Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire (CIQ Form)

Pursuant to Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code, Respondents, if any, will be required to complete the Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire ("CIQ"), which is attached to this RFQ as Exhibit E, and submit it at the request of the Procurement Authority upon determination of Awardee (s), certifying whether the Respondent has: (i) an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of Central Health or a family member of same; (ii) given a local government officer of Central Health or a family member of same one or more gifts having an aggregate value as specified in Exhibit E or (iii) has a family relationship with a local government officer of Central Health. For additional information concerning filling out the CIQ, see https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/conflict/

8. Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295)

Section 2252.908 of the Texas Government Code prohibits a governmental entity like Central Health from entering into certain Contracts unless the business entity files a Certificate of Interested Parties form, attached to this RFQ as Exhibit I. Form 1295 is applicable to any of the awarded firm's directors, officers, or employees who hold a controlling interest (10% or more ownership) in the business entity and who actively participated in facilitating the Contract or negotiating the terms of same (broker, intermediary, advisor, and/or attorney), if any.

The firm identified as most qualified for such Contract award will be required to electronically file a Form 1295 with the Texas Ethics Commission upon notification of selection from Central Health. The online filing process will generate a Certificate Number and Date Filed. The selected firm will submit that information Central Health as part of its contract.

For more information, visit: <u>https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/1295/</u>

9. Central Health Business and Financial Relationship Disclosure Form

Consultant will complete and submit the Central Health Business and Financial Relationship Disclosure Form, attached to this RFQ as Exhibit J. If Respondent fails to disclose that it has a financial relationship with any Central Health Partners provided on the Disclosure Form, has done business with any Central Health Partner during the 365day period immediately prior to the date of execution of this Agreement, or will do business with any such partner during the anticipated term of any Agreement between Respondent and Central Health, Respondents will not be considered.

IV. CENTRAL HEALTH'S RIGHTS

A. Summary of Rights

Central Health may:

- 1. Reject any or all SOQ(s) without obligation or liability to any Respondent;
- 2. Select Responsible Respondents on the basis of an initial SOQ received without discussions or requests;
- 3. Select one or more Respondents based on qualifications;
- 4. Waive any minor defect, irregularity, or informality in any SOQ;
- 5. Request clarifications from any or all Respondents;
- 6. Procure the Services in whole or in part by other means; and/or
- 7. Not determine any Respondent for awardee (s).

B. Termination of RFQ

This RFQ may be canceled at any time and any and all SOQ(s) may be rejected in whole or in part if Central Health determines such action to be in Central Health's best interest.

C. Waive Minor Irregularities

The Procurement Authority reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in any SOQ. The Procurement Authority also reserves the right to waive certain non-mandatory requirements contained herein if the SOQ otherwise meets the mandatory requirements and/or if waiving the minor irregularity does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. This right may be exercised at the Procurement Authority's sole discretion.

D. RFQ Amendments

Central Health reserves the right to issue amendments to this RFQ before the date on which SOQ are due. Amendments will be posted on the BidSync website.

E. Negotiate Additional Contract Terms

At the time of identifying projects, Central Health reserves the right to modify and negotiate with the selected Finalist additional provisions that are related to the project in addition to those attached to this RFQ. The contents of this RFQ, as revised and/or supplemented, and any portions of the successful Finalist's SOQ acceptable to Central Health, will be incorporated into future projects, should the Finalist be selected, and become part of the project contract.

F. Accept Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of project negotiation, will be discussed only between Central Health and the Finalist and will not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Finalist's SOQ. If a Finalist requests changes to the required Contract terms, the Finalist's SOQ may be considered nonresponsive and result in the Finalist's disqualification or, if such changes are requested post-SOQ submission in violation of this RFQ, will result in termination of Negotiations and any proposed project contract award.

G. Investigate Respondents

The Procurement Authority may make such investigations as necessary to verify the qualifications and ability of the Respondent to adhere to the requirements specified within

this RFQ. The Procurement Authority will reject a Respondent's SOQ if investigation findings determine the Respondent is unqualified.

H. Request Change in Respondent Representatives

Central Health reserves the right to require a change in the representatives that the Respondent submits with the SOQ, if the assigned representatives are not, in the opinion of Central Health, able to adequately meet Central Health's needs.

I. Assert Ownership of Qualifications

All documents submitted in response to this Request for Qualifications will become the property of Central Health.

V. QUALIFICATIONS FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

This section of the RFQ describes the format and organization of the Respondent's SOQ. **Failure to conform to the requirements contained herein may result in disqualification of the SOQ.**

A. Statement of Qualifications Format

All SOQs, electronic or printed, must delineate each section. The page limit should be **no more than twenty (20) pages (5 front/back if printed) not including tabs and requested forms (see Item B below), or as further instructed in this RFQ.** If submitting a printed SOQ, the SOQ must be in a binder with tabs delineating each section.

B. Statement of Qualifications Organization

The SOQ must be organized and indexed in the following format and must contain, as a minimum, all items that are listed as required in the sequence indicated.

- 1. Letter of Transmittal **Required**
 - Identify the submitting organization;
 - Identify the name, title, e-mail address and telephone number of the person authorized to contractually obligate the organization or individual proposing;
 - Identify the name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number of the person authorized to negotiate a Contract on behalf of the organization;
 - Identify the names, titles, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of persons to be contacted for SOQ clarification;
 - Explicitly indicate acceptance of Sections II through IV of this RFQ, including the required Contract terms and conditions;
 - Be signed by the person authorized to contractually obligate the organization; and
 - Acknowledge receipt of all, if any, addenda to this RFQ.
- 2. Table of Contents Optional
- 3. Statement of Qualifications Summary Optional
- 4. Response to Narrative Prompts Required
- 5. Completed and Signed Acknowledgement of Receipt Form Required
- 6. Completed Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Form Required
- 7. Completed and Signed Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ) **Required upon** selection
- 8. Completed Business and Financial Relationship Disclosure Form **Required**

- 9. Completed and Signed Certificate of Secretary Required if Respondent is a corporation
- 10. Completed Insurance Coverage Form **Required**
- 11. Other (optional) supporting material (may be included on the electronic device)

The forms listed behind the numbers 5, 6, 8 and 9 must be thoroughly completed, executed, and witnessed, if and as required, and included in the appropriate section of the SOQ. The Statement of Qualifications must include all Attachments and Exhibits in order to be considered Responsive.

Any Statement of Qualifications that does not adhere to these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

VI. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Respondents shall respond to each of the narrative prompts contained in Item A below in the form of a detailed narrative to each of the narrative based on information provided in Exhibit A: Scope of Services. The narratives, along with supporting materials, will be evaluated accordingly.

Failure to respond to the following mandatory narrative prompts will result in disqualification of the SOQ as non-responsive.

A. Narrative Prompts/Evaluation Criteria

• Relevant Experience and References

Describe your experience providing these services to similar organizations in the past three (3) years. To the extent you are able, specify the names of the entities for whom you performed these services and provide a client portfolio including a list of former and existing clients for whom you performed a comparable set of services. a) Provide three relevant case studies including the challenge, goal, objectives, target

audiences, solution/execution, and results.

b) At least three professional references with whom you have worked in the past 5 years. Please phone and email contact information, and briefly describe what services were provided.

• Response to Technical Requirements

Provide an overview of your approach to each section of the technical requirements of the services requested.

a) Explain your strategic communications and public affairs philosophy and approach. How do you build and maintain relationships with elected officials, their staff, and key influencers in the community? Provide examples of recent and relevant experience in regard to Central Health.

b)Explain how you monitor, analyze, and measure results. Include examples of your experience and highlights of achievements with previous clients.

c) Showcase your relevant experience in the health care space, your work in Travis County, and how you have connected with diverse communities and populations.

d)Explain your philosophy and approach to client service, specifically working with public entities.

(40%)

(30%)

• Proposed Staff Experience and Availability

Provide the credentials of the key personnel on the team you propose for this project, including the title, credentials, and a current resume for each person proposed. Resumes should highlight experience with the required skills listed in the Technical Requirements section above.

(30%)

• **Completed Business and Financial Relationship Disclosure** Pass/Fail Respondents working for, or with future plans to work for Ascension Health and any of its affiliates, will not be considered.

• Interview (if required – 20 points)

If selected as a finalist, Proposer agrees to provide the Evaluation Committee the opportunity to interview proposed key personnel identified by the Evaluation Committee in the finalist notification letter at the interview.

B. Evaluation Process

1. All SOQ will be reviewed for compliance with the above Narrative Prompts/Evaluation Criteria and within Central Health's Rights of this RFQ. Statement of Qualifications deemed non-responsive may be eliminated from further consideration. Refer to Section II: Explanation of Events, Subparagraphs E through H, for details on each evaluation step.

Exhibit A SCOPE OF SERVICES RFQ 2305-001 Public Affairs Consulting Services

Central Health is seeking a consultant(s) to support our local public affairs, strategic communications and local government affairs efforts.

The successful consultant(s) will have deep and comprehensive knowledge of Travis County's political landscape and have established, trusted relationships with elected officials and their constituents at the city, county, state and federal levels – from small municipalities and towns to the City of Austin and Travis County Commissioners and associated staff.

Central Health wishes to partner with an entity/individual(s) who understands the unique and complex healthcare issues facing Travis County, our safety-net healthcare system, and the history, current state, and future of Travis County's Healthcare District dba Central Health.

Consultants should have:

- The ability to analyze relevant political and public policy information and understand how it impacts Central Health and our work.
- Established reporting systems for clients that are maintained in real-time. They should have experience communicating complex information to elected officials and staff, community influencers and amplifiers, and the community at-large.
- Proven success building informed consent or buy-in from elected officials, key stakeholders and/or the population affected by our work, as this work will continue to strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of Central Health.

Key Activities

- Provide ongoing analysis of current and relevant political and policy issues at the city, county, state and federal levels affecting Central Health, resulting in strategic and timely advice and detailed action plans.
- Build and/or maintain relationships with local and state elected officials and their staff, and other key influencers and partners, identifying challenges and developing solutions.
 - The vendor would assist with delivering key information to elected officials and staff, and key influencers and amplifiers, about Central Health strategic priorities, budget, healthcare equity plan and more.
- Develop strategic messaging and a communication plan to disseminate information in formats and forums most effective for the targeted stakeholder/audience.
- Provide ongoing strategic communications and public advice as needed.
- Provide Crisis response management.

Exhibit C Acknowledgment of Receipt Form

In acknowledgment of receipt of this Request for Qualifications, the undersigned agrees that he/she has received a complete copy, beginning with the title page and Table of Contents and Exhibits.
The acknowledgment of receipt should be signed, returned, and included with the Respondent's
submittal. Complete (Legal) Name of Proposer:
Proposer Tax Identification Number:
Business Address:
Telephone Number:
Type of Organization: Individual Partnership Corporation Association
Other (please describe)
If incorporated, state of incorporation:
Date organization was formed (month/year):
The number of years providing services/systems similar to those requested in this Solicitation:
Description of Proposer's organization, locations, and number of staff (including subcontractors as applicable) that will provide services/support outlined in this Solicitation):

Please certify the following by placing an "X" in the appropriate column:

Certification	Yes	No
Is Proposer/Respondent currently in the process of filing for bankruptcy?		
Has Proposer/Respondent filed for bankruptcy within the past five (5) years?		
Is the Proposer/Responder delinquent on any taxes owed to Travis County?		
Is the Proposer/Responder currently under suspension or debarment by any governmental entity (City of Austin/state/federal government)? ¹		
Does Proposer/Respondent have any current business relationship, or plan to seek any such relationship, with Ascension, Ascension Seton, any company affiliated with those entities, or any law firms or consultants assisting those entities in pending litigation? ²		

- 1. Proposer/Responder may be not be considered if currently under suspension or debarment.
- 2. NOTE Proposer/Respondent <u>will not</u> be considered if the answer to this question is "Yes."

Exhibit C Acknowledgment of Receipt Form

Individual authorized to bind Proposer/Respondent to contract:			
Name/Title:			
Telephone:	E-mail:		
Point of contact information for this Sc	olicitation (if different from authorized individual):		
Name/Title:			
Telephone:	E-mail:		
Contract Terms and Conditions			
incorporated into the contract resultin	itions identified in the Exhibit G, of this Solicitation, will be ng from this Solicitation, and the Proposer /Respondent's he contract. Please identify whether there are any requested		
I do not request any exceptions c	or deviations to the stated contract terms.		
I request the following exception	as or deviations to the stated contract terms.		
Litigation History:			

Description of litigation to which the firm has been a party in the most recent five-year period. Please include the following details:

- 1) Name of case
- 2) Date filed
- 3) Court in which filed
- 4) Judgment or result

(Continued on Next page)

Exhibit C Acknowledgment of Receipt Form

Important: The Proposer/Respondent must respond to all questions. The Proposer/Respondent may attach additional documents to the questionnaire to provide additional details.

Authorized Respondent Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

ATTACHMENT D HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) FORM

The Travis County Healthcare District's policy is to include Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) in its procurement process and to provide equal opportunities for HUB participation in the provision of supplies, services, equipment and construction projects required by the District. As such, the District seeks to ensure that a "good faith effort" is made to assist certified HUB vendors and contractors in its award of contracts and subcontracts.

To be considered as a "Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor", the contractor/vendor must have been certified by and hold a current and valid certification from any of the following certifying agencies recognized by the District: the Texas Building and Procurement Commission (State of Texas); City of Austin; and the Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP), which includes six (6) certifying agencies.

Suggested directories to assist proposers in identifying potential HUBs to meet the District's "good faith effort" requirement include: **State:** <u>https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/vendor/hub/;</u> **City:** <u>http://www.austintexas.gov/department/purchasing</u>; and **TUCP:** <u>https://www.txdot.gov/business/partnerships/tucp.html</u>

	Proposer HUB Declaration				
ls your	company certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE/DBE source? Yes No. If yes,				
1.	Attach your certification to this form and return it in the proposal;				
2.	Identify the certification agency by checking all that apply;				
	State of Texas Comptroller HUB Program				
	City of Austin; Texas Unified Certification Program; and				
3.	Identify HUB Status (Gender & Ethnicity):				

Please complete page 2 - Disclosure of HUB Subcontractors

Estimated percentage of the bid (proposal) that is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources: <u>%</u>

ATTACHMENT D HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) FORM

Disclosure of Subcontractors

Sub Company Name:			EIN/VID #:			
Address:	City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Contact:	Phone No.:		Fax No.:		E-mail:	
Subcontract Amount:	Percentage:		Description of Work:			
Is the company a certified HUB? □ Yes □ No	Indicate Gender & Ethnicity:					
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable):	State of TexasCity of Auxhttps://comptrollehttp://wwr.texas.gov/purchexas.gov/oasing/vendor/hubnt/purcha/ (HUB)(M/WBE)		vw.austint https://www departme rtnerships/to sing		ed Certification Program w.txdot.gov/business/pa tucp.html 🗆	
Sub Company Name:			EIN/VID #:			
Address:	City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Contact:	Phone No.:		Fax No.:		E-mail:	
Subcontract Amount:	Percentage:		Description of Work:			
Is the company a certified HUB? □ Yes □ No	Indicate Gender & Ethnicity:					
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable):	State of Texas https://comptrolle r.texas.gov/purch asing/vendor/hub /	ps://comptrolle www.ci.aus exas.gov/purch /purchase/ ng/vendor/hub tm (M/WB		https://ww	ed Certification Program w.txdot.gov/business/pa tucp.html (DBE) □	
Sub Company Name:			EIN/VID #:			
Address:	City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Contact:	Phone No.:		Fax No.:		E-mail:	
Subcontract Amount:	Percentage:		Description of Work:			
Is the company a certified HUB? □ Yes □ No	Indicate Gender & Ethnicity:					
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable):	State of Texas https://comptrolle r.texas.gov/purch asing/vendor/hub / (HUB) □		ustin.tx.us https://www.txdot.gov/business/p e/default.h rtnerships/tucp.html (DBE) []		w.txdot.gov/business/pa	

ATTACHMENT E CONFLICT OF INTEREST

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE	FORM CIQ		
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity			
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY		
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received		
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. <i>See</i> Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.			
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.			
1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.			
2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law re completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th busines you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)			
3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.			
Name of Officer 4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer			
officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship wit Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attac CIQ as necessary.	h the local government officer.		
A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or li other than investment income, from the vendor?	kely to receive taxable income,		
Yes No			
B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?			
Yes No			
5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 m other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an o ownership interest of one percent or more.			
6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.00			
7			
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	Date		

ATTACHMENT E CONFLICT OF INTEREST

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/ Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

(A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;

(B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or

(C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

 $(\bar{\textbf{i}})$ a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

- (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
- (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY (Required for bidders which are corporations)

I CERTIFY that: I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of ______ [Name of Corporation] [Name of State] a duly organized and existing corporation of the State of ______ The following is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Managers of such corporation in a meeting legally held on the ______ day of ______, 20 ____, and entered in the minutes of such meeting in the minute book of the Corporation. RESOLVED, that this corporation enter and that __________[Insert Name of Person Executing Bid Form] __ , the _____ of this corporation, is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of and [Position with Corporation] as the act of this corporation the Bid Form for the Travis County Healthcare District dba Central Health Description: _____, Project # _____, together with all associated documents and, should this corporation be the successful bidder for that project, to execute on behalf of and as the act of the corporation all necessary documents to effect a written contract between this corporation and Travis County Healthcare District dba Central Health for the Construction of the Travis County Healthcare District dba Central Health.

[Insert Name and Number of Project]

The Secretary is directed to attach a copy of the Bidding Documents to the minutes of this meeting and to make them a part of the corporate records.

The above Resolution is in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation has never been modified or repealed and is now in full force and effect.

Date _____

Secretary _____

President _____

AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTING SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT D/B/A CENTRAL HEALTH AND _____

This Agreement for Public Affairs Consulting Services ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health, a hospital district created under Chapter 281 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, ("Central Health"), and _____ ("Contractor") (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties"), effective as of _____, 2023 (the "Effective Date").

WHEREAS, Central Health desires to obtain for Public Affairs Consulting Services for Central Health; and

WHEREAS, Central Health issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) XXXX-XXX on Date Posted (the "RFP"), which sought qualified entities to Purpose for the solicitation; and

WHEREAS, Central Health received and evaluated the proposals submitted in response to the RFP and selected Contractor as the most qualified entity providing the best value to Central Health; and

WHEREAS, Contractor has the desire, ability, experience, and knowledge to provide the desired for Public Affairs Consulting Services; and

WHEREAS, Contractor is willing to perform these services on the terms set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, the amount and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, Central Health and Contractor agree as follows:

I. PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES

- 1.1 **Services.** Contractor will provide the services for Public Affairs ("Services") identified in the Scope of Services, attached hereto as Attachment A.
- 1.2 Additional Costs and Services. The Parties acknowledge that the scope of Services is based on information, assumptions, and beliefs that the Parties have as of the Effective Date. Given that the Services may be contingent on circumstances that neither Party can control or foresee, the scope of Services that Contractor is required to provide may change. The Parties acknowledge this situation and agree that, as soon as either recognizes that a development is likely to result in a change to the Scope of Services, it will so inform the other Party so that Parties can discuss the situation and determine what, if any, adjustments to the Agreement are required as a result of the development. No change in compensation or any other provision of this Agreement is effective unless and until this Agreement is amended pursuant to Section 12.1 of this Agreement.
- 1.3 **Cooperation and Coordination.** Contractor will cooperate and coordinate with Central Health staff in the performance of the Services. Contractor will meet on an as-needed basis with Central Health staff to discuss the progress and goals of the services and, when requested, will make reports to the Central Health Board of Managers on the same.

II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- 2.1 **Initial Term.** This Agreement is for a period of time, beginning on_____, 2023, and ending on_____, 2024 (the "Initial Term"). Contractor will not be compensated until the Agreement has been executed by both Parties.
- 2.2 **Renewal Term.** Central Health may unilaterally extend this Agreement for up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods (each a "Renewal Term"). All provisions of this Agreement will remain unchanged and in full force and effect during the Renewal Term, unless otherwise amended by the Parties pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.
- 2.3 **Agreement Extension.** Upon expiration of the Initial or Renewal Term, Contractor agrees to hold over under the terms and conditions of this Agreement for such a period of time as is reasonably necessary to negotiate or award a new contract.

III. COMPENSATION

- 3.2 Administrative and Travel Expenses. With Central Health's prior written approval, Contractor may bill Central Health for those administrative and travel expenses that are beyond the reasonable and ordinary expenses Contractor incurs in connection with the performance of Services under the Agreement. For avoidance of doubt, the phrase "expenses that are beyond reasonable and ordinary expenses" means expenses the Contractor incurs due to abnormal circumstances. An example of an abnormal circumstance would be a circumstance that required Contractor to travel outside of the Austin, Texas metropolitan area at the express direction of Central Health to perform the Services under this Agreement.
- 3.3 **Satisfactory Completion of Services**. Central Health will not pay Contractor for any Services that are not satisfactorily completed or for any additional fees or costs, not including those to which Central Health has given its express, written approval.
- 3.4 **Payment Method.** Subject to Section 3.1 above, Central Health will make payment to Contractor by electronic payment upon submission of an invoice that meets the requirements of Section 3.4 below. Invoices must be submitted to:

finance@centralhealth.net.

- 3.5 **Invoice.** Contractor will submit invoices to Central Health within thirty (30) days of the end of the month in which the Services encompassed by the invoice were rendered. Failure to submit the invoice timely will result in a delay of payment. At a minimum, invoices will include: (i) name, address, and telephone number of Contractor and similar information if payment is to be made to a different address; (ii) Central Health contract or purchase order number, as applicable, (iii) identification of Service(s) performed; (iv) the number of hours each Service took to complete or perform; and (v) any additional payment information, including expense information, which may be called for by the Agreement. Central Health shall pay all invoices within thirty (30) days following receipt, in accordance with the Prompt Payment Act, Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code.
- 3.6 **W-9 Taxpayer Identification Form.** Contractor will provide Central Health with an Internal Revenue Service Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, which is completed in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code and its rules and regulations. Contractor acknowledges that this W-9 Form must be provided to Central Health before any funds are payable under this Agreement. If there are any changes in the W-9 form during the term of the Agreement, Contractor will provide Central Health with a new and correct W-9 form before the next payment is due.
- 3.7 **Overpayment.** Contractor will refund to Central Health any money that has been paid to Contractor by Central Health, which Central Health determines has resulted in an overpayment to Contractor. This refund will be made by Contractor within thirty (30) days of the date that the refund is requested by Central Health. If Contractor fails to refund any money owed to Central Health within thirty (30) days of Central Health's request for same, Central Health may deduct the amount owed to it from the next payment payable to Contractor.
- 3.8 **Sales Tax.** In recognition of the fact that Central Health is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, all payments due hereunder will exclude any sales or excise taxes imposed by any federal, state, or local government. Central Health agrees to provide Contractor with sales and use tax exemption certificates or other documentation necessary to support sales or use tax exemptions, upon request.

IV. TERMINATION

- 4.1 **Termination for Default.** If either Party defaults in the performance of its obligations (including compliance with any covenants) under this Agreement and such default is not cured within thirty (30) days of the receipt of written notice thereof, then the non-defaulting Party will have the right (in addition to any other rights that it may have) by further written notice to terminate the Agreement on any future date that is not less than thirty (30) days from the date of that further notice.
- 4.2 **Termination for Convenience.** In addition to, and without restricting any other legal, contractual, or equitable remedies otherwise available, either Party may terminate the Agreement without cause by giving the other party at least thirty (30) days written notice.

- 4.3 **Termination for Gratuities.** Central Health may terminate this Agreement if it is found that gratuities of any kind, including entertainment or gifts, were offered or given by the Contractor or any agent or representative of the Contractor to any Central Health official or employee with a view toward securing this Agreement. If this Agreement is terminated by Central Health pursuant to this provision, Central Health will be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover from the Contractor at least three times the cost incurred by Contractor in providing the gratuities.
- 4.4 **Funding Out.** If, during the annual Central Health budget planning and adoption process, Central Health fails to provide funding for this Agreement for the following Central Health fiscal year, Central Health may terminate this Agreement by giving Contractor written notice that this Agreement is terminated due to the failure to fund it.

V. DISPUTES AND APPEALS

- 5.1 **Definition of Dispute.** "Dispute" means any and all disagreements, questions, claims, or controversies arising out of or relating to this Agreement, including the validity, construction, meaning, performance, effect, or breach of the Agreement.
- 5.2 **Negotiation.** In the event of a Dispute between the Parties, the Parties will promptly, amicably, and in good faith attempt to resolve the Dispute through informal negotiations. The disputing Party will give written notice of the Dispute to the other Party that will contain a brief statement of the nature of the Dispute. If the Parties are unable to resolve the Dispute within thirty (30) days of the date on which the disputing Party sent written notice of the Dispute, the Parties may submit to mediation as set forth herein.
- 5.3 **Mediation.** If the Parties are unable to resolve the Dispute within sixty (60) days after commencing negotiation, the Parties may submit that Dispute to mediation. The Parties agree to use a mutually agreed upon mediator, or someone appointed by the Court having jurisdiction, as the provider of mediators for mediation as described in Section 154.023 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. Unless both Parties are satisfied with the result of the mediation, the mediation will not constitute a final and binding resolution of the dispute. All communications within the scope of the mediation will remain confidential as described in Section 154.073 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, unless both Parties agree, in writing, to waive the confidentiality.

VI. EXPRESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND WARRANTIES

6.1 **Acknowledgments.** Contractor acknowledges that it is an independent contractor, operating solely in that capacity, and agrees to assume all of the rights, obligations, and liabilities attendant to independent contractor status, including the obligation to withhold and pay taxes and to purchase any insurance that is prudent and customary for the industry in which Contractor is engaged. Contractor further acknowledges and agrees that no employee of Contractor will be considered an employee of Central Health or gain any

rights against Central Health pursuant to Central Health's personnel policies.

- 6.2 **Certification.** Contractor certifies that it is a licensed business entity; Contractor is not in receivership and does not contemplate it; and Contractor has not filed for bankruptcy and does not contemplate it. Further, Contractor certifies that it is not currently delinquent with respect to the payment of property taxes within Travis County, Texas and that, as of the Effective Date, it:
 - 6.2.1 is not listed on the State of Texas Debarred Vendor List maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, nor is it presently debarred suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - 6.2.2 has not within a three-year period preceding this Agreement been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - 6.2.3 is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph 6.2.2; and
 - 6.2.4 has not within a three-year period preceding this Agreement had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this Agreement was entered into. Where Contractor is unable to certify to any of the statements in this Section, Contractor shall provide an explanation of such inability prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement for Central Health's consideration and evaluation, with the understanding that such may result in termination of this Agreement by Central Health. If Central Health later discovers that Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, then, in addition to other remedies available to Central Health, Central Health may terminate this Agreement. Contractor must provide immediate written notice to Central Health if, at any time after execution, Contractor learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Additionally, Contractor will not knowingly enter into any subcontract with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in a covered transaction and will include this section regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility, and voluntary exclusion without modification in any subcontracts or solicitations for subcontracts.

6.3 **Representations.** Contractor warrants that no persons have or selling agency has been retained to solicit this Agreement upon an understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the Contractor to secure business. For breach or violation of this warranty, Central Health will have the right to terminate this Agreement without liability or, in its discretion and as applicable, to add to or deduct from the Initial

or Renewal Term Cap or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

- 6.4 **Warrants.** Contractor warrants that:
 - 6.4.1 all applicable copyrights, patents, and other forms of intellectual property rights that may exist or be incorporated on materials used in this Agreement have been adhered to;
 - 6.4.2 Central Health will not be liable for any infringement of those rights;
 - 6.4.3 any rights granted to Central Health hereunder will apply for the duration of the Agreement;
 - 6.4.4 its name is not included on the list maintained by the Texas State Comptroller of companies known to have contracts with or to provide supplies or services to a foreign terrorist organization or has been excluded by the United States government from the federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan, the federal sanctions regime relating to Iran, or any federal sanction relating to a foreign terrorist organization; and
 - 6.4.5 if it is a for-profit entity that has ten (10) or more full-time employees and, at any point during the term of the Agreement, Contractor has received one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more for the services or goods provided under this Agreement, Contractor will verify that it does not and will not during the term of the Agreement:
 - i. boycott Israel, as defined by Texas Government Code Chapter 808, and will not boycott Israel during the Agreement Term and for so long as Texas Government Code Chapter 2271 is in effect;
 - ii. boycott energy companies, as defined in Texas Government Code Chapter 2274, and will not boycott energy companies during the Agreement Term; or
 - have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association, as defined in Texas Government Code Chapter 2274, and will not discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the Agreement Term.

VII. ACCESS AND AUDIT; RECORDS

7.1 Access and Audit. During the term of this Agreement and for a period of four (4) years following termination of this Agreement or the expiration of any ongoing audit or Dispute, whichever occurs later, Central Health maintains the right to access, inspect, and audit any of the Contractor's books, documents, or records that relate to Contractor's receipt of payments hereunder. Central Health may conduct its inspection or audit through its own employees, agents, or representatives or through independent external auditors selected by Central Health upon at least seventy-two (72) hours' notice to the Contractor. Any inspection or audit will be conducted at Central Health's expense, on Contractor's property, and during regular business hours. Contractor agrees to provide Central Health,

its authorized employees, agents, or representatives with adequate and appropriate workspace to review these books, documents, and records, and further agrees that any materials which Central Health requests a copy of will be made available to Central Health.

- 72 **Records Maintenance.** Contractor will maintain all information created, sent, or received under this Agreement in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including state records retention requirements. To the extent that Contractor receives, or comes into contact with, information that Central Health or its affiliated entities may consider confidential, Contractor agrees to keep all such information confidential and not to discuss or divulge it to anyone other than appropriate Central Health employees, agents, or representatives, or, when authorized to do so, in the course of performing Services under the Agreement.
- 73 Public Information Act. Notwithstanding Section 7.2, Contractor understands that Central Health is subject to the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act ("PIA"), Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code, and all legal authorities relating to the Act, including decisions and letter rulings issued by the Texas Attorney General's Office. If Central Health receives a request for disclosure of any information related to the Services provided under this Agreement, including any procurement documents, or for information provided to Central Health under this Agreement that constitutes a record under the PIA, Central Health will utilize its best efforts to comply with the PIA. Contractor authorizes Central Health to submit any information provided under the Agreement or otherwise requested to be disclosed, including information that the Contractor has labeled as confidential or proprietary, to the Office of the Attorney General for a determination as to whether any such information may be excepted from public disclosure under the PIA. It is the Contractor's responsibility and obligation to make any legal argument to the Attorney General or court of competent jurisdiction regarding the exception of the information in question from disclosure. Contractor waives any claim against and releases from liability Central Health, its directors, officers, employees, agents, and representatives with respect to disclosure of information provided under this Agreement or otherwise created, assembled, maintained, or held by the Contractor, including that information marked as confidential or proprietary and determined by the Attorney General or a court of competent jurisdiction to be subject to disclosure under the Act. This Section will survive the termination of this Agreement.
- 7.4 **Confidentiality.** In providing Services to Central Health, Contractor may receive confidential and proprietary information. Contractor will preserve the confidentiality of Central Health's information and agrees not to discuss or divulge such information to anyone other than Central Health, its appropriate personnel, designees, or appropriate third parties as required in the course of performing Services under the Agreement. Contractor shall maintain information created, sent, or received under this Agreement in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

If access to any of the materials in Contractor's possession relating to this Agreement is sought by a third party, or Contractor is requested or compelled to testify as a fact witness in any legal proceeding related to Contractor's work for Central Health, by subpoena or otherwise, or Contractor is made a party to any litigation related to Contractor's work for Central Health, Contractor will promptly notify Central Health of such action, and cooperate with Central Health concerning Contractor's response thereto. At its sole discretion, Central Health may choose to defend Contractor regarding such request or proceeding, or may direct Contractor to retain counsel for Contractor's defense for which Central Health shall reimburse Contractor for all reasonable attorney's fees and costs-. In

such event, Central Health will compensate Contractor at Contractor's standard billing rates for Contractor's professional fees and expenses for Contractor's staff time involved in responding to such action.

- 75 **Work Product.** All documents produced by Contractor under this Agreement, including analyses, assessments, projections, reports, plans, drawings, maps, or records, and all data contained therein that are developed, conceived, or prepared by Contractor in connection with the Services (collectively "Work Product"), whether or not accepted or rejected by Central Health, are the property of Central Health.
 - 75.1 Contractor hereby grants and assigns to Central Health all rights and claims of whatever nature whether now or hereafter arising in and to the Work Product and will cooperate fully with Central Health in any steps Central Health may take to obtain patent, copyright, trademark, or like protections with respect to the Work Product.
 - 752 Central Health will have the exclusive right to use the Work Product for the completion of the Services or otherwise, the Work Product will not be used or published by Contractor or any other person unless expressly authorized by Central Health in writing.
 - 753 Contractor will treat all Work Product as confidential, and, upon termination of this Agreement, Contractor will deliver the original Work Product to Central Health at no cost.
- 7.6 **Secure Erasure.** All equipment that may be used by Contractor and that is known to store Central Health's information will have the capability to securely erase such information prior to the end of the equipment's useful life or the termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- 7.7 **Business Associate.** Contractor shall maintain all records and health information it receives from Central Health in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1986, ("HIPAA"), Health Information Technology For Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH"), and its implementing regulations, as amended. A Business Associate Agreement ("BAA") is attached hereto as Attachment F and shall be separately signed by the Parties. Among the obligations a Business Associate has under HIPAA and which Contractor will observe are the following:
 - (i) Contractor shall secure against unauthorized access or use of Central Health's records and information and shall protect the confidentiality of this information at all times.

- (ii) Contractor shall perform periodic backups and archiving of Central Health's records and information. Backups shall be performed according to the schedule provided by Central Health.
- (iii) Contractor shall maintain the integrity and readability of all data provided by Central Health, or which Contractor gains access to under this Agreement, and shall provide for secure storage of all data, whether on-line or archived. Central Health shall have the right to review backup and archival procedures and to request and witness demonstration runs.
- (iv) Contractor shall provide off-site storage of archival and backup data. Archival retrieval shall be available within 48 hours of a request.
- (v) Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, all data will promptly be returned to Central Health in such format and media as Central Health may reasonably request. Upon confirmation by Central Health that the returned data is complete, readable, and in the agreed upon format, Contractor shall certify deletion of Central Health's data from its systems. Contractor shall cooperate with Central Health in transferring data processing servicing to such provider as Central Health may designate upon payment by Central Health of Contractor's direct labor, service and materials costs. The provisions of the Business Associate Agreements attached to this Agreement shall govern in the event that return of the data is infeasible.

VIII. INDEMNIFICATION AND CLAIMS NOTIFICATION

INDEMNIFICATION. CONTRACTOR AGREES TO AND WILL INDEMNIFY 8.1 AND HOLD CENTRAL HEALTH, ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES, HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND LIABILITY OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING ALL EXPENSES OF LITIGATION, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES, THAT ARISE IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM ANY ACT OR OMISSION BY CONTRACTOR OR ANY OF ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, **OR SUBCONTRACTORS. CONTRACTOR ALSO AGREES TO INDEMNIFY** CENTRAL HEALTH, ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND LIABILITIES OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES, FOR DAMAGES TO ANY PERSON, ENTITY, OR **PROPERTY ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ALLEGED OR ACTUAL INFRINGEMENT OF EXISTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS** APPLICABLE ТО MATERIALS USED BY CONTRACTOR IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT. THE FOREGOING **INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS WILL SURVIVE THE TERMINATION OF** THIS AGREEMENT AND WILL BE LEGALLY BINDING UPON CONTRACTOR, EVEN IFTHE CLAIM, CAUSE OF ACTION, DAMAGE, LOSS, OR LIABILITY

RESULTS FROM THE JOINT NEGLIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR AND ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY.

8.2 **Claims Notification.** If Contractor receives notice or becomes aware of any claim or other action, including proceedings before an administrative agency, that are made or brought by any person or entity against Contractor and such claim (a) is related to the Services, and (a) may affect Contractor's ability to perform the Services in a timely manner, Contractor will give written notice to Central Health of: (a) the claim or other action within ten (10) working days after being notified of it; (b) the name and address of the person or other entity that made a claim, or that instituted any type of action or proceeding; (c) the alleged basis of the claim, action or proceeding; (d) the court or administrative tribunal, if any, where the claim, action or proceeding was instituted; and (e) the name or names of any person against whom this claim is being made. This written notice will be given in the manner provided in Section 10 of this Agreement. Except as otherwise directed, Contractor will furnish to Central Health copies of all pertinent papers received by Contractor with respect to these claims or actions and all court pleadings related to the defense of these claims or actions.

IX. INTERPRETATIONAL GUIDELINES

- 9.1 **Headings.** Headings and titles at the beginning of the various provisions of this Agreement have been included only to make it easier to locate the subject matter covered by that provision or subsection and will not be used in construing this Agreement.
- 92 **Computation of Time.** Whenever an obligation must be performed within a specific period of time under this Agreement, the Parties agree that the time period will exclude the first day of the period and will include the last day of the same period. The Parties further agree that, if the last day of any period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a day that Central Health has declared a holiday for its employees, the last day of the period in which an obligation must be performed is the next business day that is not a Central Health holiday.
- 93 **Gender and Number.** Words of any gender in this Agreement will be construed to include any other gender, and words in either singular or plural form will be construed to include the other unless the context in the Agreement clearly requires otherwise.
- 9.4 **Integration.** All oral and written agreements that were made by the Parties to this Agreement prior to the execution of this Agreement and that relate to the subject matter hereof have been reduced to writing and are contained in this Agreement.
- 95 **Incorporation**. All of the attachments referred to in this Agreement are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth verbatim herein.
- 9.6 **Conflicts Among Documents Order of Priority**. The Parties understand and agree that if there is any conflict between the provisions in this Agreement and any provision in the RFP or Proposal, the documents will prevail in the order set forth below:
 - a. Business Associate Agreement (Attachment F).
 - b. This Agreement, including any attachments other than those set out in the order below.

- c. The RFP including all attachments, clarifications, and questions/answers, plus any specific deviations to the RFP submitted in Contractor's Proposal that were expressly accepted by Central Health.
- d. Contractor's Proposal (Attachment G).

X. NOTICES

- 10.1 **Notices.** Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement by one Party to the other will be in writing. Notice will be deemed to have been given immediately if delivered in person to the intended Party or sent via email with read receipt requested. Notice will be deemed to have been given on the third day following mailing if placed in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, and addressed to the Party to whom the notice is to be given at the address set forth in this section.
 - 10.1.1 The address of Central Health for all purposes under this Agreement is:

Mike Geeslin (or his successor in office) President and CEO Travis County Healthcare District 1111 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, Texas 78702 <u>Mike.geeslin@centralhealth.net</u>

10.1.2 The address of the Contractor for all purposes under this Agreement is:

10.2 **Change of Address.** The Parties may change the person or address to which notice will be sent by giving notice of the change to the affected Party in compliance with this section.

XI. LEGALLY REQUIRED PROVISIONS

- 11.1 **Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Laws.** Both Parties will comply with the Constitutions of the United States and Texas and with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, orders, regulations, and rules that govern any promises made, or obligations created, by this Agreement. For example, Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment based on race, religion, color, gender, national origin, age, or handicapped condition.
- 11.2 **Conflict of Interest.** Contractor will complete the Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire ("Questionnaire"), attached to this Agreement as Attachment B, as required by Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code and submit it together with this signed Agreement. To the extent applicable, Contractor will also complete the Disclosure of Interested Parties Form ("Form 1295"), attached to this Agreement as Attachment C, which pursuant to Section 2252.908 of the Texas Government Code, must be filed with the Texas Ethics Commission no later than thirty (30) days after the execution of this Agreement. Contractor will update this Questionnaire and Form 1295 if any statement on either document becomes incomplete or inaccurate. The updated document(s) must be submitted to Central Health no later than the seventh (7th) business day after the date on which Contractor becomes aware of an event that makes a statement incomplete or inaccurate.
- 11.3 **Subcontracting**. Contractor shall not enter into any subcontracts for any service or activity relating to the performance of this Agreement without the prior written approval or the prior written waiver of this right of approval from Central Health. To the extent that Contractor submitted subcontracts as part of its proposal to the RFP, those subcontracts are hereby approved. No official, employee, representative, or agent of Central Health has the authority to approve any subcontract under this Agreement unless that specific authority is expressly granted by Central Health Board of Managers.
- 11.4 Selection of Subcontractors. If Contractor requests and receives Central Health's approval to enter into a subcontract for any of the Services that Contractor is required to provide hereunder, Contractor will make a "good faith" effort to employ or give Historically Underutilized Businesses ("HUBs"), as such term is defined in Texas Government Code, Section 2161.001, a maximum opportunity to be subcontractors under this Agreement. Contractor's failure to make a good faith effort to employ or encourage HUBs to be subcontractors constitutes a breach of this Agreement and may result in termination of this Agreement.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1 **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended only by an instrument in writing that is signed by both Parties. Amendments to this Agreement will be effective as of the date stipulated therein. Contractor acknowledges that no Central Health officer, agent, employee, or representative has any authority to amend this Agreement unless expressly granted that specific authority by the Central Health Board of Managers.
- 122 **Assignment.** Central Health may assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement. Contractor may assign any of its rights under this Agreement only with the prior written consent of Central Health. No official, employee, representative, or agent of

Central Health has the authority to approve any assignment under this Agreement unless that specific authority has been expressly granted by the Central Health Board of Managers.

- 123 **Force Majeure.** Neither Central Health nor Contractor will be deemed to have breached this Agreement or be held liable for failure or delay in the performance of all or any portion of its obligations under this Agreement if prevented from doing so by a cause or causes beyond its control. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such causes include acts of God or the public enemy, fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, riots, strikes, boycotts, lock-outs, wars and war operations, acts of terrorism, restraints of government, or other circumstances beyond such party's control, or by reason of the judgment, ruling, or order of any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, or changes in law or regulation (or change in the interpretation thereof) subsequent to the execution of this Agreement.
- 12.4 **Law and Venue.** The laws of the State of Texas (without giving effect to its conflicts of law principles) govern all matters arising out of or relating to this Agreement and all of the transactions it contemplates, including, without limitation, its validity, interpretation, construction, performance, and enforcement. Venue for any dispute arising out of this Agreement will lie in the appropriate court of Travis County, Texas. The parties agree to waive their right to a trial by jury to resolve any disputes arising under this Agreement.
- 125 **Non-Waiver of Default.** No payment, act, or omission by Central Health may constitute or be construed as a waiver of any breach or default of Contractor which then exists or may subsequently exist. All rights of Central Health under this Agreement are specifically reserved, and any payment, act, or omission will not impair or prejudice any remedy available to Central Health under it. Any right or remedy in this Agreement will not preclude the exercise of any other right or remedy under this Agreement or under any law, except as expressly provided for herein, nor will any action taken in the exercise of any right or remedy be deemed a waiver of any other rights or remedies.
- 126 **No Third-Party Beneficiary.** No provision of this Agreement is intended to benefit any person or entity, nor will any person or entity not a party to this Agreement have any right to seek to enforce or recover any right or remedy with respect hereto.
- 12.7 **Severability.** If any portion of this Agreement is ruled invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Agreement will remain valid and binding.
- 128 **Successors Bound.** The terms, provisions, covenants, obligations and conditions of this Agreement are binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successor-in- interest and assigns of the Parties to this Agreement so long as the assignment or transfer is made in compliance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 129 **Non-Disparagement.** Contractor shall not, at any time during the Term of this Agreement and thereafter, make statements or representations, or otherwise communicate, directly or indirectly, in writing, orally, or otherwise, or take any action which may, directly or indirectly, disparage, defame or induce others to disparage, or defame Central Health, the Central Health Enterprise, or Central Health staff or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates or their respective officers, directors, employees, advisors, businesses or reputations.
- 12.10 **Media Inquiries.** All inquiries from the media received by Contractor related to the Services must be referred to Central Health for response. No public comment on the

Services may be made without prior approval from Central Health.

- 12.11 **Non-Exclusivity.** The Parties acknowledge and agree that this is not an exclusive Agreement, and that Central Health is free to retain any other Contractor(s) in addition to or in lieu of Contractor.
- 12.12 **Insurance.** Contractor shall have, and shall require all subcontractors of every tier providing Services under this Agreement to have, insurance meeting the requirements set forth in Attachment E and sufficient to cover the needs of Contractor and/or subcontractors pursuant to applicable generally accepted business standards. All such insurance shall name Central Health as an additional insured with right of subrogation. During the term of this agreement no insurance policies may be canceled, nor coverage amounts lowered without prior notice to, and written consent of, Central Health.
- 12.13 **Entire Agreement.** All oral and written Agreements between the Parties to this Agreement relating to the subject matter of this Agreement that were made prior to the execution of this Agreement have been reduced to writing and are contained in this Agreement.
- 12.14 **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, and all of which together will constitute one and the same Agreement.
- 12.15 **Survival.** Any term of this Agreement which logically should survive the termination of the Agreement shall survive and be enforceable by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties duly execute this Agreement to be effective as of the Effective Date.

TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT D/B/A CENTRAL HEALTH

TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT D/B/A CENTRAL HEALTH

CONTRACTOR

Signature

Mike Geeslin President and CEO Signature

Name Printed

Title

Date

Date

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

For purposes of this Attachment, Central Health is referred to as "Covered Entity" and Contractor is referred to as "Business Associate." Central Health and Contractor are collectively referred to as the "parties," and any reference in this Attachment to the "Service Agreement" means the Agreement for Consulting Services between the parties.

1. **OBLIGATIONS**

1.1. In the course of performing the services contemplated by the Service Agreement, Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that it will create, receive, maintain, or transmit information that is protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), the Health Insurance Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 ("HITECH Act"), and current and future regulations promulgated under HIPAA and/or the HITECH Act, as well as Texas laws related to the privacy and security of health information, including, but not limited to, Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 181 and 182.

1.2. To the extent that Business Associate uses, discloses, maintains, or transmits protected health information ("PHI") that concerns alcohol and substance abuse treatment, Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that:

(i) such information is protected by 42 C.F.R. Part 2 ("Part 2"), and Business Associate is bound by these regulations;

(ii) Part 2 prohibits Business Associate from further disclosing such information unless disclosure is authorized by Part 2, Subparts D or E, or Business Associate obtains the written consent of the individual whose PHI is to be further disclosed; and

(iii) if necessary, Business Associate will resist any effort to obtain access to such information by initiating judicial proceedings against the person or entity attempting to gain access in contravention of Part 2.

1.3. Obligations of Business Associate and Business Associate Subcontractors. Business Associate agrees (and its Subcontractors will agree through the execution of a written contract) to comply with all of the provisions of this Section 1.3. For purposes of clarification, the obligations set forth in this Section shall apply to all of Business Associate's subcontractors (as that term is defined in 45 C.F.R. 160.103) and subcontractor's downstream subcontractors who create, receive, use, disclose, or have access to Covered Entity's PHI. Any reference to Business Associate in this Agreement includes all of Business Associate's subcontractors. Business Associate expressly acknowledges and agrees that it will be liable for the actions and omissions of its subcontractor(s) and its subcontractors' downstream subcontractors of subcontractor's or "Subcontractors').

1.3.1 Use Reasonable Safeguards to Secure Protected Health Information. The HITECH Act and final Omnibus Rule as published at 78 Federal Register 5566 (January 25, 2013) require Business Associate to comply with 45 C.F.R. Sections 164.308, 164.310, 164.312 and 164.316 as if Business Associate were a Covered Entity, and Business Associate agrees that it will comply with those provisions of the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (the "Security Rule"). Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that the provisions of the Security Rule with which it must comply require Business Associate to:

(i) employ appropriate administrative and physical safeguards, consistent with the size and complexity of Business Associate's operations, to protect the confidentiality of PHI and

Exhibit H **BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

to prevent the use or disclosure of PHI in any manner inconsistent with the terms of this Business Associate Agreement. These safeguards will include, without limitation:

implementing written policies and procedures in compliance (a) with HIPAA, HITECH, and the Privacy and Security Rule;

> performing a security risk assessment; and (b)

regularly and adequately training its employees, and any (c) Subcontractors who will have access to PHI on the policies and procedures required by HIPAA, HITECH, their implementing regulations, and state law.

use, to the extent possible, commercially reasonable efforts to secure (ii) electronic protected health information ("EPHI") through technical safeguards that render such EPHI unusable, unreadable and undecipherable to individuals unauthorized to acquire or otherwise have access to such EPHI. At a minimum, Business Associate will use technical safeguards that are compliant with 45 C.F.R. Section 164.312, or such later regulations or guidance promulgated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") or issued by the National Institute for Standards and Technology ("NIST') that concern the protection of identifiable data such as PHI.

provide Covered Entity with a copy of its written information security (iii) program before execution of this Business Associate Agreement.

> 1.3.2 Use and Disclose Protected Health Information for Permissible Purposes.

Business Associate agrees that it will: (i)

(a) use or disclose PHI only in connection with fulfilling its duties and obligations under this Business Associate Agreement and the Service Agreement;

(b) not use or disclose PHI other than as permitted by Section 2 of this Business Associate Agreement or as required by Section 1.3.3 of this Agreement; and

not use or disclose PHI in any manner that violates applicable (c) federal and state laws or would violate such laws if used or disclosed in such manner by Covered Entity.

Business Associate may disclose PHI that is not protected by Part 2 to (ii) Subcontractors as necessary to perform its obligations under the Service Agreement and as permitted or required by applicable federal or state law.

> Under no circumstances will Business Associate: (iii)

sell PHI in such a way as to violate Texas Health and Safety Code, (a)

Chapter 181.153;

use or further disclose genetic information for underwriting (b)

purposes;

attempt to re-identify any information in violation of Texas (c) Health and Safety Code Section 181.151, regardless of whether such action would be permitted if performed by the Covered Entity; or

use PHI for marketing purposes in such a manner as to violate (d) Texas Health and Safety Code Section 181.152. Before Business Associate can sell, use, or disclose PHI for marketing purposes, Business Associate must first obtain Covered Entity's written consent.

Support Covered Entity in Fulfilling its Obligations. If the Business Associate 1.3.3 maintains a Designated Record Set (as defined in 45 C.F.R. 164.501), Business Associate will support Covered Entity in a manner that enables Covered Entity to meet its obligations under 45 C.F.R. Sections 164.524, 164.526, and 164.528. To the extent that Business Associate is asked to carry out Covered Entity's obligations under these sections, Business Associate will comply with the requirements that apply to Covered Entity in the performance of such obligations.

> Requests for Access (45 C.F.R. 164.524) (i)

(a) Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with any PHI subject to an individual's request for access within three (3) business days of Covered Entity's written

request for the same. Unless Covered Entity specifically requests otherwise, the PHI subject to the request will be forwarded in electronic form.

(b) In the event any individual requests access to PHI directly from Business Associate, Business Associate will forward such request to Covered Entity within two (2) business days. Before forwarding any PHI to Covered Entity, Business Associate will indicate in the Designated Record Set, any material it deems unavailable to the individual pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Section 164.524(a)(1). Covered Entity will make the final determination as to the availability of the requested material.

(ii) Requests for Amendment (45 C.F.R. 164.526)

(a) Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with the PHI subject to an individual's request for amendment within five (5) business days of Covered Entity's written request for the same. Unless Covered Entity requests otherwise, the PHI subject to the request will be forwarded in electronic form.

(b) In the event any individual requests an amendment of PHI directly from Business Associate, Business Associate will forward such request to Covered Entity within two (2) business days. Before forwarding any PHI to Covered Entity, Business Associate will indicate in the Designated Record Set, any material it deems unavailable for inspection by the individual pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Section 164.524(a)(1). Covered Entity will make the final determination on the request.

(c) Business Associate will incorporate any amendment to PHI that Covered Entity directs or agrees to make no later than fifteen (15) days after Covered Entity requests the amendment be effected.

(iii) Accounting of Disclosures (45 C.F.R. 164.528)

(a) In order to allow Covered Entity to respond to an individual's request for an accounting, Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with the information required by 45 C.F.R. Section 164.528 within five (5) business days of Covered Entity's written request for the same. Unless Covered Entity specifically requests otherwise, the information will be forwarded in electronic form.

(b) In the event any Individual requests an accounting of disclosure of PHI directly from Business Associate, Business Associate will forward such request to Covered Entity within two (2) business days.

with the following information:

(c) At a minimum, Business Associate will provide Covered Entity

• the date of the disclosure;

• the name of the entity or person who received the PHI,

and if known, the address of such entity or person;

- a brief description of the PHI disclosed; and
- a brief statement of the purpose of such disclosure.

(d) Business Associate will implement an appropriate recordkeeping process to enable it to comply with the requirements of this Subsection 1.3.4.

1.3.4 *Keep Accurate and Detailed Records*. Business Associate will keep such accurate and detailed records pertaining to:

(i) all disclosures of PHI to third parties, including those made to Business Associate's directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents, Subcontractors, and representatives, other than those disclosures that meet the exception criteria of 45 C.F.R. Section 164.528, for a period of at least six (6) years from the date of termination of this Agreement; and

(ii) the written agreements it enters into with Subcontractors. Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with a copy of such agreements, upon request, and will also keep a written list of all Subcontractors to whom Business Associate discloses PHI.

Exhibit H BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

1.3.5 *Cooperate with Covered Entity and the Secretary.* Business Associate agrees that:

(i) Business Associate will submit such compliance reports, in such time and manner and containing such information, as the Secretary of HHS ("Secretary") may determine to be necessary to verify compliance with applicable HIPAA provisions.

(ii) Business Associate will cooperate with the Secretary if the Secretary undertakes investigations or compliance review of the policies, procedures, or practices of Covered Entity or Business Associate. Business Associate will also cooperate with Covered Entity if Covered Entity undertakes an audit to determine Business Associate's compliance with this Business Associate Agreement.

(iii) Business Associate must permit access to the Secretary and Covered Entity, as applicable, during normal business hours to its facilities, books, records, accounts and other sources of information, including PHI, in order for the Secretary or Covered Entity to ascertain Business Associate's compliance with HIPAA provisions or this Business Associate Agreement, respectively.

(a) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Secretary determines that exigent circumstances exist, such as when documents may be hidden or destroyed, Business Associate must permit access by the Secretary at any time and without notice.

(b) If any information required of the Business Associate is under the exclusive possession of any other agency, institution, or person and the other agency, institution, or person fails to furnish the information, the Business Associate must so certify and set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

(c) Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with copies of all documents provided to the Secretary or other regulatory and accreditation authorities.

(iv) In addition to Business Associate's obligations under Section 1.3.5(iii)(c), Business Associate will provide copies of any documents reasonably requested by Covered Entity. Documents will be made available to Covered Entity within fourteen (14) days of Covered Entity's request at no charge.

1.3.6 *Enter into Business Associate Agreements with Subcontractors.*

(i) In accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.314(a)(2)(B), Business Associate will enter into a signed written agreement with its Subcontractor(s), if any, that:

(a) Binds the Subcontractor to the same provisions, restrictions, and conditions as contained in this Business Associate Agreement;

(b) Contains reasonable assurances from Subcontractor that the PHI will be held confidential as provided in this Business Associate Agreement, and only disclosed as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to Subcontractor;

(c) Establishes the permitted and required uses and disclosures of PHI by the Subcontractor. The written agreement will not authorize the Subcontractor to use or further disclose PHI in a manner that would violate 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E (the "Privacy Rule") or Part 2, if done by Covered Entity;

(d) Obligates Subcontractor to forward a request from an individual to Business Associate on the same day that Subcontractor receives such requests;

(e) Obligates Subcontractor to immediately notify Business Associate of any breaches (including breaches of unsecured PHI as required by 45 C.F.R. 164.410) of the confidentiality of the PHI and Security Incidents (as defined in 45 C.F.R. 164.304) of which it becomes aware; and

(f) Requires the Subcontractor to comply with the applicable requirements of HIPAA (including but not limited to the Security and Privacy Rule) as well as Texas Privacy provisions.

(ii) Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with a copy of each such written agreement, upon request.

1.3.7 *Survival*. The provisions of this Section 1.3 will survive the termination of this Business Associate Agreement

1.4. Obligations of Covered Entity.

1.4.1 *Resolve and Report All Appeals and Complaints.* Any denial of access or amendment to PHI, which is determined by Covered Entity and conveyed to Business Associate by Covered Entity, will be the sole responsibility of Covered Entity. Covered Entity will resolve, and report all appeals and/or complaints arising from such denials.

2. **RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PHI**

2.1. Except as otherwise specified herein, Business Associate may use or disclose any PHI necessary to perform its obligations under the Service Agreement.

2.2. Improper Uses and Disclosures.

2.2.1 Neither Business Associate nor its directors, officers, employees, Subcontractors, or agents will disclose PHI to any person other than a member of their respective workforces unless disclosure is required by law or authorized by the person whose PHI is to be disclosed.

2.2.2 Business Associate and its Subcontractors will not disclose PHI to any member of its respective workforce unless Business Associate or Subcontractor has advised such member of Business Associate's obligations under this Business Associate Agreement, and of the consequences for such person and for Business Associate or such Subcontractor of violating them. Business Associate will take and will require that each of its Subcontractors and agents take appropriate disciplinary action against any member of its respective workforce who uses or discloses PHI in contravention of this Business Associate Agreement.

2.2.3 If PHI is used or disclosed by Business Associate in violation of this Business Associate Agreement, Business Associate will:

(i) notify Covered Entity within the timeframe described in Section 3.4;

(ii) upon Covered Entity's direction, take steps to mitigate any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate and is the result of such improper use or disclosure, and

(iii) indemnify Covered Entity pursuant to Section 7 of this Business Associate

Agreement.

2.3. <u>Minimum Necessary</u>.

2.3.1 Business Associate will comply with Section 13405(b) of the HITECH Act, and any regulations or guidance issued by HHS concerning such provision, regarding the minimum necessary standard and the use and disclosure of Limited Data Sets.

2.3.2 Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that Section 13405(b) of the HITECH Act requires Business Associate to limit its uses and disclosures of PHI to either:

(i) the information making up a Limited Data Set (as defined in 45 C.F.R. 164.514); or

(ii) the minimum PHI necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use or disclosure.

3. **REPORTING OF BREACHES, SECURITY INCIDENTS, AND IMPROPER DISCLOSURES**

3.1. <u>Definition of Breach</u>. The term "Breach," as used in this Agreement, refers to two (2) distinct types of breaches: a HIPAA Breach and a Breach of System Security.

3.1.1 A "HIPAA Breach" is the unauthorized acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted by HIPAA and which compromises the security or privacy of such information.

3.1.2 A "Breach of System Security" means an unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of sensitive personal information (as defined in Section 521.002 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code) maintained by a person, including data that is encrypted if the person accessing the data has the key required to decrypt the data.

3.2. Breach Reporting.

3.2.1 In the event of a Breach of any Unsecured PHI (as defined in 45 C.F.R. 402) or sensitive personal information that Business Associate accesses, maintains, retains, modifies, records, stores, destroys, or otherwise holds or uses on behalf of Covered Entity, Business Associate will provide notice of the Breach to Covered Entity immediately, but in no event more than three (3) days after discovering the Breach.

(i) For purposes of this Business Associate Agreement, a Breach of Unsecured PHI or sensitive personal information will be treated as discovered by Business Associate as of the first day on which such Breach is known to Business Associate (including any person, other than the individual committing the Breach, who is an employee, officer, Subcontractor, or other agent of Business Associate, as determined in accordance with the federal common law of agency) or should have been known to Business Associate following the exercise of reasonable diligence.

3.2.2 Business Associate will be liable to, and indemnify Covered Entity for, unreasonable delays in reporting Breaches to Covered Entity.

3.2.3 Notice of a Breach will include, at a minimum:

(i) the identification of each individual whose PHI or sensitive personal information has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, accessed, acquired, or disclosed during the Breach;

(ii) the date of the Breach, if known, and the date the Breach was

(iii) a description of the types of PHI or sensitive personal information involved (e.g., names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, home addresses, or medical record numbers);

 $({\rm iv})$ a description of the Business Associate's response to the Breach, if any (i.e., what the Business Associate has done to investigate the Breach and to protect against future Breaches); and

(v) any other reasonable information requested by Covered Entity.

3.3. <u>Duties Following a Breach</u>. In addition to Business Associate's obligations under Section 3.2, Business Associate has a duty to:

3.3.1 inform Covered Entity of any new information learned by Business Associate regarding the Breach;

3.3.2 assist Covered Entity in:

(i) conducting a risk assessment of the Breach;

(ii) providing notice of the Breach as required by the Privacy and Security

Rule;

discovered;

(iii) mitigating any harmful effect of such Breach;

3.3.3 pay all costs associated with mitigation and public or individual notice efforts (including the costs associated with a Subcontractor's breach); and

3.3.4 appoint a liaison and provide contact information for same so that Covered Entity may ask Business Associate questions or learn additional information about the Breach.

3.4. <u>Reporting of Security Incidents and Improper Disclosures</u>. Business Associate will report to Covered Entity any Security Incident, unauthorized or improper use or disclosure of any PHI under the terms and conditions of this Business Associate Agreement or applicable federal and state laws as soon

as practicable, but in no event later than two (2) days of the date on which Business Associate becomes aware of such use or disclosure.

4. **EQUITABLE REMEDIES**

4.1. Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that Covered Entity will suffer irreparable damage upon Business Associate's breach of this Business Associate Agreement and that such damages will be difficult to quantify.

4.2. Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that, where Covered Entity has knowledge of any material breach by Business Associate, Covered Entity may file an action for injunction against Business Associate to enforce the terms of this Business Associate Agreement. Such proceeding may be brought before any Court having jurisdiction to obtain an injunction.

4.3. Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that Covered Entity may also pursue any other legal remedies available to Covered Entity to cure or stop such material breach.

5. **TERM AND TERMINATION**

5.1. <u>General Term and Termination</u>. This Business Associate Agreement will become effective on the Effective Date of the Service Agreement and will terminate when all PHI provided by either party to the other, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity is, in accordance with Section 6, destroyed or returned to Covered Entity or, if it is not feasible to return or destroy PHI, protections are extended to such information, in accordance with the terms of Section 6 of this Business Associate Agreement.

5.2. <u>Termination for Material Breach</u>.

(c)

5.2.1 Where Covered Entity has knowledge of a material breach by Contractor, Covered Entity may terminate both the Service and Business Associate agreements it has executed with Contractor. Such termination may occur before the expiration of the Service Agreement and without provision of notice or an opportunity for Contractor to cure.

(i) Business Associate commits a material breach of this Agreement if Business Associate:

(a) knows of a pattern of activity or practice of a Subcontractor that constitutes a material breach or violation of the Subcontractor's obligation under the contract or other arrangement, unless the Business Associate takes reasonable steps to cure the breaches or end the violation, as applicable;

(b) impermissibly uses or discloses PHI;

notification;

(d) fails to provide timely access, either to Covered Entity, a requesting individual, or the requesting individual's designee, to a copy of PHI;

- (e) fails to provide a timely and accurate accounting;
- (f) fails to timely disclose PHI where required by the Secretary;
- (g) fails to fully comply with Texas law, the Security Rule, or the

fails to provide Covered Entity with timely and accurate Breach

Privacy Rule; or

(h) otherwise fails to fully comply with this Business Associate

Agreement.

5.2.2 Alternatively, Covered Entity will have the right to cure any breach of Business Associate's obligations under this Business Associate Agreement.

(i) When Covered Entity chooses to exercise this right, Covered Entity will give Business Associate notice of its election to cure any such breach, and Business Associate will cooperate fully.

Exhibit H BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

(ii) Business Associate will compensate Covered Entity for the efforts Covered Entity undertakes to cure Business Associate's breach. Payment for such efforts will be made to Covered Entity within thirty (30) days.

6. **RETURN/DESTRUCTION OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION UPON TERMINATION** Business Associate acknowledges that, as between Business Associate and Covered Entity, all PHI will be and remain the sole property of Covered Entity, including any and all forms thereof developed by Business Associate or its Subcontractors in the course of fulfillment of its obligations pursuant to this Business Associate Agreement and the Service Agreement. Upon termination of the Business Associate Agreement or Service Agreement for any reason, Business Associate will:

6.1. If feasible, return or destroy all PHI received from, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity that Business Associate or any of its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, Subcontractors, agents, and representatives still maintain in any form; or

6.1.1 Business Associate agrees that all paper, film, or other hard copy media will be shredded or destroyed such that it may not be reconstructed, and EPHI will be purged or destroyed as set forth in the NIST Guidelines for media sanitization at http://www.csrc.nist.gov/.

6.2. If Covered Entity and Business Associate mutually determine that such return or destruction is not feasible, Business Associate's will:

6.2.1 continue to use appropriate safeguards and comply with the Security Rule (45 C.F.R Part 164, Subpart C), with respect to EPHI;

6.2.2 extend the conditions of Section 2 of this Business Associate Agreement to all PHI retained by Business Associate;

6.2.3 further limit the uses and disclosures of PHI to those purposes that that make the return or destruction of the PHI infeasible (i.e., for the purposes for which such PHI was maintained); and

6.2.4 return or destroy the PHI retained as soon as it is no longer needed by Business Associate for the purposes that made the return or destruction of the PHI infeasible.

7. **INDEMNIFICATION** Business Associate will indemnify, defend and hold harmless Covered Entity and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents, and representatives from and against any and all actions, claims, costs (including court costs and attorneys' fees), demands, suits, penalties, proceedings, losses and liabilities of any kind, arising from or relating to the acts or omissions of Business Associate or any of its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents, Subcontractors, and representatives in connection with Business Associate's performance under this Business Associate Agreement, without regard to any limitation or exclusion of damages provision otherwise set forth in the Business Associate or Service Agreement. The indemnification provisions of this Section 7 will survive the termination of this Business Associate Agreement and will apply when actions, claims, demands, or proceedings are brought by a third party or when Business Associate commits a material breach of this Agreement, as described in Section 5.2.1.

8. **AMENDMENT** If any of the rules or regulations promulgated under HIPAA or state law are amended or interpreted in a manner that renders this Business Associate Agreement inconsistent therewith, Covered Entity may, on thirty (30) days written notice to Business Associate, amend this Business Associate Agreement to comply with such amendments or interpretations. Business Associate agrees that it will amend applicable Subcontractor agreements as necessary to comply with changes in laws or regulations.

9. **CONFLICTING TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS** In the event any terms of this Business Associate Agreement conflict with any terms of the Service Agreement, the terms of this Business Associate Agreement will govern and control. In the event of any conflict between this Business Associate Agreement and federal or Texas law, the more stringent requirements will govern.

ATTACHMENT I CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES			FORM 1295	
Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties. Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.			CE USE ONLY	
Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.			ustrile	
2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.				
3 Provide the identification number us and provide a description of the serv	ed by the governmental entity or state vices, goods, or other property to be p	e agency to track of ide rovided upday the cont	entify the contract, tract.	
4 Name of Interacted Party	City, State, Country	Nature of Interes	Nature of Interest (check applicable)	
Name of Interested Party	(place of business)	Controlling	Intermediary	
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5 Check only if there is no interes	l ted Party.		1	
6 UNSWORN DECLAR FORMON				
My name is	, and my date of birth is			
My address (street) (street) L deviate under penalty of perjury that the for	egoing is true and correct.	,,, _,, _	de) (country)	
Executed in County,	State of , on the da	y of, 20_		
			(year)	
	Signature of authoriz	ed agent of contracting bus (Declarant)	iness entity	
ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY				

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

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Exhibit K INSURANCE COVERAGE

Insurance Coverage

Using table K1 provide the Insurance coverage currently carried by your company. If you carry coverage not listed that is relevant to this business category add coverage to the bottom of the list. Indicate yes or No if that coverage is carried and what the coverage amount is currently carried.

Table K1:

Insurance Type	Coverage Yes/No	Coverage Amount if Applicable
General Liability		
Professional Liability		
Cyber Liability/Data Breach		
Errors and Omissions		
Commercial Auto Insurance		
Commercial Umbrella Insurance		
Workers Compensation		