

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: April 4, 2023 [X] Consent [] Regular
[] Ordinance [] Public Hearing

Department: Department of Public Safety
Submitted By: Department of Public Safety
Submitted For: Division of Justice Services
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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file: Notice of Contract Termination of Contractual Services Agreement for Expert Examining Committee Member Services in Guardianship Matters. (R2022-0999).



Summary: On September 13, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners entered into Contractual Services Agreement Expert Examining Committee Member Services (R2022-0999) with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court to provide expert services in guardianship cases. The County wishes to exercise the right to terminate the Agreement with 30 days written notice. The Court has been notified and does not have an objection to the termination of the Agreement as they maintain a list of mental health professionals whom they contract with to provide these services. In April 2020, there was an audit report released from the County's Internal Auditor. They recommended that we evaluate the continuing need for the court psychologists due to the abrupt change in the number of referrals they received because of a change in Administrative Order No. 2.601 (which reduced the number of competency evaluations per defendant) and budgetary restraints at the state level, which the Court relies on to pay for these evaluations. As we have seen the number of cases coming into Court Psychology decrease, we stopped filling positions. Last year, the Public Safety Department approached the Youth Services Department about transitioning the two remaining long-time County staff to Highridge Family Center, where their skills could be utilized within the juvenile population and still accessible to the Court. Of the five psychologist positions, four have either resigned or retired. Two forensic psychology positions (one vacant and one filled) were transferred to the Youth Services Department during the County's budget process on September 13, 2022. Countywide (SF)

Background and Justification: The Palm Beach County Division of Justice Services Forensic Court Psychology has provided expert services to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court for approximately 18 years. In June 2017, there began to be a decline in referrals from the court. Due to a continued reduction in case referrals from the court, the inability to replace trained psychologists, and in alignment with a recommendation from the Internal Auditor to outsource these services, by mutual agreement, the two forensic psychologists positions were transferred. They were moved to Youth Services Department to retain long-term employees, where they will be better utilized. The other Contractual Service Agreement (R2022-0998) for Professional Psychological or Expert Witness Services in Adult and/or Juvenile Criminal Matters will be amended by the Youth Services Department to address Juvenile cases only.

Attachment:

- 1. Notice of Contract Termination of Contractual Services Agreement Expert Examining Committee Member Services (R2022-0999)

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Recommended By:  3/8/23
Department Director Date
Approved By:  3/20/23
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Personal Services	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital Outlay	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Grants & Aids	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Net Fiscal Impact	* =====	=====	=====	=====	=====

ADDITIONAL FTE
 POSITIONS (Cumulative) _____ 0 _____ 0 _____ 0 _____ 0 _____ 0

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____

Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes _____ No _____

Budget Account Exp No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____
 Rev No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ RevSc _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

*There is no fiscal impact. The External Revenues reported in the September 13, 2022 agenda item are related to Motion A Contractual Services Agreement for Professional or Expert Witness Services in Adult and/or Juvenile Criminal Matters (R2022-0998) and not related to Motion B (R2022-0999) which is the contract that is terminated.

Departmental Fiscal Review: _____


III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

_____ ASD/De 3/10/23
 OFMB OA 519 B03 09

_____ J. S. [Signature] 3/13/23
 Contract Administration
 mab 3/13/23

B. Legal Sufficiency:

_____ [Signature]
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.



January 25, 2023

Sent via E-Mail to BDawicke@pbcgov.org

Department of Public Safety

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**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

- Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor
- Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor
- Maria G. Marino
- Michael A. Barnett
- Marci Woodward
- Sara Baxter
- Mack Bernard

County Administrator

Verdenia C. Baker

Ms. Barbara Dawicke
Trial Court Administrator
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court
205 North Dixie Hwy, Suite 5.2500
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

RE: Notice of Contract Termination of Contractual Services
Agreement Expert Examining Committee Member Services
(R 2022-0999)

Dear Ms. Dawicke,

This letter constitutes official notice of Palm Beach County's termination of Contractual Services Agreement Expert Examining Committee Member Services (R2022-1999), which was executed on September 13, 2022. Pursuant to Section I (3) of the Agreement, the Agreement will terminate thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice of Termination.

We thank you for your partnership with the County over the last 18 years and look forward to continuing to work together on other matters. It has truly been a pleasure working together.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Sejnoha, the Director of the Public Safety Department, at 561-712-6470.

Sincerely,

Verdenia C. Baker,
County Administrator

cc:
Nicole Bishop
Debra Oats
Shannon Fox

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Affirmative Action Employer"

