

ITB No. ITB No. 20-101240 Family Functional Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy Services

**User Department's Recommendation**

User Department Name DeKalb Juvenile Court

**Recommended Bidder(s) meets our approval.**

**Bidder 1: Family Functional Therapy-(FFT)-Community Solutions Inc. /\$41 cost per day per FFT client**

**Bidder 2: Multisystemic Therapy (MST)-Evidence Based Associates/\$89 cost per day per MST client**

**Bidder 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Bidder 4: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Name/Amount Name/Amount**

**Project Amount This Term: Pending Grant Award- not to exceed \$383,700: FFT-\$196,800 and MST: 186,900**

**Funding: Juvenile Court Grant Cost Center 63410**

**General  Enterprise  3 Digit Fund Code \_\_\_\_\_**

**CIP Line Item No. (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pending grant award**

**Justification:**

DeKalb Juvenile Court's recommendation is to split the services between the two providers. Both vendors submitted responsive and responsible bids. Community Solutions, Inc. (CSI) has a lower bid for FFT and both companies bid the same costs for MST services. The recommendation is for CSI to be selected as the provider for FFT services and Evidence Based Associates (EBA) to provide MST services.

Community Solutions, Inc. (CSI) is a private, non-profit human service agency with a mission to promote the independence, responsible citizenship, and well-being of individuals and families. CSI has established and operated a continuum of community-based services and programs for over 58 years. The agency is well-versed in the provision of home-based models, including both Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST), having provided those services for over

17 years and 21 years respectively. They have delivered MST services in DeKalb County, Georgia since 2002 and FFT services since 2013.

CSI's GA MST and FFT teams have been providing services at-risk youth in order to reduce the long-term rates of crime in serious juvenile offenders, decrease recidivism and rearrests, reduce adolescent alcohol and drug use, reduce rates of out-of-home placements, decrease behavior and mental health problems for serious juvenile offenders and create improvements in family functioning. These benefits and successful outcomes have offered a cost savings to DeKalb County in comparison with usual mental health and juvenile justice services.

Evidence Based Associates (EBA) has been providing MST and FFT Implementation support for 16 years beginning in Florida in 2004. EBA and Grace Harbour have been collaborating on FFT and MST services in GA since 2013. EBA has provided FFT services to Bibb County since 2014, FFT and MST for Muscogee Juvenile Court from 2014-to present, and MST for Clayton County Juvenile Court from 2016-to present in addition to three other courts over the past year.

In regard to MST, EBA/Grace Harbour currently has a local MST team of five staff, one MST lead therapist and four MST therapists. The MST lead therapist and one of the MST therapists can be assigned to service Dekalb County's MST needs. One MST therapist and one lead therapist can serve up to 18 youth and families each year, which will adequately meet the service needs of this ITB in serving up to 15 medium to high risk youth participating in the DeKalb County Juvenile Court's Commitment Alternative Program. Grace Harbour has additional MST service capacity to serve more youth in Dekalb County, if needed and desired. The two MST staff that will be assigned to the court will be able to provide MST services as soon as requested.

Both companies have a wealth of experience providing FFT and MST throughout the state in court settings with youth offenders since at least 2013. They currently have staff onboard who are already licensed and trained in the evidence-based modalities. There should be a minimal amount of time required to begin offering services to DeKalb County youth because of the experience and staff already on board for each provider.

*Kenna M. Jones* 5/28/20  
Name, Title Grants Manager Date

*Coler Odumgbes* 5/28/20  
Department Director Date