



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 12/05/2023

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY, D/B/A TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH FOR THE PROVISION OF ETHICAL RESEARCH REVIEW OF HUMAN SUBJECT PROTOCOLS SERVICES

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve a Contract for Services between Tarrant County, d/b/a Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) and the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC) for the provision of ethical research review of human subject protocols services.

BACKGROUND

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for any systematic investigation (including pilot studies, program evaluations, and qualitative research) that is designed to develop or contribute to generalizable (scholarly) knowledge, and that uses living humans or identifiable private information about living humans. UNTHSC has served as an IRB for TCPH for over fifteen (15) years through annual contracts.

On November 3, 2020, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #134145, approved the most recent contract with UNTHSC to assist public health researchers with developing appropriate protocol and consent documents preparatory to IRB, arrange for IRB review including meeting materials, and coordinate all follow-up ethical reviews and regulatory requirements. The Contract term ended on October 31, 2023 with a not to exceed the amount of \$5,000.00.

With the approval, the UNTHSC Office for the Protection of Human Subjects (OPHS) will continue to serve as the IRB for TCPH. Services will not begin until a fully executed contract is in place. The term of this contract is November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2026, with three (3) optional renewals of three (3) years each. The not-to-exceed amount is \$5,000.00 per year of the contract.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office has reviewed this contract as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

All associated costs will be paid from Public Health funds from account T0400-2024.

SUBMITTED BY:	Public Health	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Dr. Kenton Murthy, DO, MS, MPH, CPE, AAHIVS
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