



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 04/02/2024

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY AND VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA
TEXAS, INC TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO TARRANT COUNTY
JAIL INMATES**

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that Commissioners Court approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tarrant County and Volunteers of America Texas, Inc. to provide services to Tarrant County Jail inmates with the goal of reducing recidivism and promoting re-entry success.

BACKGROUND

Volunteers of America Texas, Inc. (VOATX) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization focused on employment and training, corrections, and community supervision. VOATX seeks to provide services within the Tarrant County Jail with the goal of reducing recidivism, promoting re-entry success and well-being in individuals returning from incarceration, building connections with local employers to enable returning citizens to secure employment, and advancing equity for individuals facing significant barriers to labor market reentry, including incarcerated women and communities of color.

If approved, VOATX will collaborate with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to deliver the following supportive services to male and female adults, aged 18 or older, who have been convicted under federal, state, or local law and are incarcerated in Tarrant County Jail with a scheduled release date within 20 to 270 days of enrollment in the project:

- Will expand their career training programs informed by labor market needs in the geographic areas where incarcerated individuals will return.
- Will continually assess local demand for employees in the geographic areas to which incarcerated individuals are likely to return and adjust educational and employment goals.
- Will make available a comprehensive range of programs and a process for addressing the needs of 120 individuals returning from incarceration.
- Will collaborate with Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County who will provide the following pre- and post-release services to qualified participants.
- Will collaborate with law enforcement, corrections, and other partners to collect data and measure program outcomes.
- Will comply with all security requirements of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to have access to the facility.
- Will follow any facility requirements for incarcerated individuals' participation and selection deemed appropriate by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

SUBMITTED BY:	Sheriff Office	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Jessica Redding
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The Civil Division of the Criminal District Attorney's Office has approved this MOU as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.