



**SUBMITTAL TO THE RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH
SYSTEM MEDICAL CENTER GOVERNING BOARD
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 15.6
(ID # 17911)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

FROM : RUHS-MEDICAL CENTER:

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM-MEDICAL CENTER: Ratify and Approve the Professional Service Agreement with National Research Corporation dba NRC Health for Patient Experience and Employee Culture Safety Survey Services Without Seeking Competitive Bids, Effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023, All Districts. [Total Cost \$515,526 for Two Years; up to \$51,552 in additional compensation] 100% Hospital Enterprise Fund 40050

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify and approve the Professional Service Agreement with National Research Corporation dba NRC Health for Patient Experience and Employee Culture Safety Survey Services without seeking competitive bids effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023 for a total amount of \$515,526 and authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County; and
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, in accordance with Ordinance No. 459 and based on the availability of funding and as approved as to form by County Counsel, to sign amendments that exercise the options of the original Agreement including modifications of the statement of work that stay within the intent of the Agreement and to sign amendments to the compensation provisions that do not exceed the total sum of ten percent (10%) of the total contract amount.

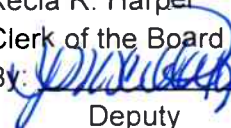
ACTION:Policy


J. Cruikshank, Chief Executive Officer - Health System 12/6/2021

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 14, 2021
xc: RUHS-Medical Center

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 251,476	\$ 264,050	\$ 515,526	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% Hospital Enterprise Fund-40050			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 21/22-22/23	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The requested Board action will approve the Professional Services Agreement with National Research Corporation dba NRC Health and Single Source Approval # 22-053 for Patient Experience and Employee Culture Safety Survey Services. NRC's services ensure that Riverside University Health System-Medical Center (RUHS MC) meets regulatory requirements and improve patient satisfaction through timely data for inpatient and outpatient surveys. The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require all hospitals in the United States to collect patient satisfaction surveys through Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). HCAHPS survey is the first national, standardized, publicly reported survey instrument and data collection of patients' perspectives of hospital care. The tool must be provided through an authorized third-party vendor who is responsible for submitting the HCAHPS results to CMS directly. Since July 2007, hospitals subject to the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) annual payment update provisions must collect and submit HCAHPS data in order to receive their full annual payment.

NRC Health performs all patient satisfaction surveys, compiles results and submits data directly to CMS. NRC Health is an approved provider of HCAHPS survey and is recognized for their "Connect Experience" and "Real Time Measure" Programs which allow for daily feedback of patient satisfaction, immediate service recovery, and the ability to implement change based on timely data for both inpatient and outpatient surveys.

Over the years, NRC Health has assisted RUHS MC meet the requirements of CMS and has achieved the following:

# of Annual Surveys	Target Group	Department
600	Inpatient Survey	Case Management
135,000	Real Time Survey	Inpatient, Emergency, Outpatient (lab, testing, imaging, outpatient surgery)
1,050	Clinician and Group Survey	Quality Management, Quality

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	(CG-CAHPS)	Improvement Program (QIP) reporting
169	Group Providers	Physician Real Time (medical practice)
3,000	Employee Engagement / Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) survey	Quality Management

Patient satisfaction is a valuable and important representation of the quality of hospital care, along with favorable physician outcomes to treatment. These services help to provide the Medical Center with the data it needs to improve services, meet regulatory requirements, and support its efforts to maximize performance-based revenue.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

These services are a component of RUHS's system of care aimed at improving the health and safety of its patients and the community.

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

On April 10, 2018, Agenda Item #3.29, Single Source Approval (SSJ#18-159), the Board approved the Professional Service Agreement with National Research Corporation dba NRC Health to provide Patient Experience & Employee Culture Safety Survey Services without seeking competitive bids effective April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021 for total amount of \$684,834.

This new Agreement is needed to ensure the Medical Center remains compliant with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid's (CMS) provision requiring all hospitals in the United States to collect patient satisfaction surveys through Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). This reporting tool must be provided by an authorized 3rd-party vendor—such as NRC Health—who collects HCAHPS and submits results to CMS. NRC Health proposed a two-year agreement with the following yearly costs: Year 1 at \$251,476 and Year 2 at \$264,050 not to exceed the total contract amount of \$515,526 effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023. These costs are paid quarterly.

To ensure best value for the County, RUHS MC engaged the vendor to provide competitive pricing in line with their Department of General Services Administration (GSA) federal contract, Agreement No. 47QRAA20D007P or better. As a result of this price analysis, NRC is extending

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pricing to the County of Riverside, at approximately a fifteen percent (15%) discount from their book price.

This Agreement (Purchasing Approved SSJ # 22-053) requires Board of Supervisors approval per Ordinance 459.6 because it is a purchase of a service costing more than \$50,000 made without securing competitive bids.

ATTACHMENTS:

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL
RESEARCH CORPORATION DBA NRC HEALTH (PATIENT
EXPERIENCE & EMPLOYEE CULTURE SAFETY SURVEY
SERVICES) AND SINGLE SOURCE APPROVAL NO. 22-053**


Suzanna Heckley, Assistant Director of Purchasing and Fleet Service

12/7/2021


Jacqueline Ruiz, Sr. Management Analyst

12/8/2021


Gregory V. Priamos, Director County Counsel

12/8/2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

for

PATIENT EXPERIENCE & EMPLOYEE CUTLURE SAFETY SURVEY SERVICES

between

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

And

NATIONAL RESEARCH CORPORATION DBA NRC HEALTH



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This Agreement is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2021, by and between **National Research Corporation dba NRC Health**, a Delaware Corporation, (herein referred to as "CONTRACTOR") and the COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a political subdivision of the State of California, (herein referred to as "COUNTY"), on behalf of Riverside University Health System, (herein referred to as "RUHS"), sometimes collectively referred to as the "Parties" or individually referred to as a "Party." The Parties agree as follows:

1. Description of Services

1.1 CONTRACTOR shall provide all services as outlined and specified in Exhibit A, Scope of Services, consisting of one (1) page at the prices stated in Exhibit B, Payment Provisions, consisting of one (1) page) and shall adhere to Attachment I, HIPAA Business Associate Addendum, consisting of ten (10) pages.

1.2 CONTRACTOR represents that it has the skills, experience, and knowledge necessary to perform under this Agreement and the COUNTY relies upon this representation. CONTRACTOR shall perform to the satisfaction of the COUNTY and in conformance to and consistent with the highest standards of firms/professionals in the same discipline in the State of California.

1.3 CONTRACTOR affirms it is fully apprised of all of the work to be performed under this Agreement; and the CONTRACTOR agrees it can properly perform this work at the prices stated in Exhibit B. CONTRACTOR is not to perform services or provide products outside of the Agreement.

1.4 Acceptance by the COUNTY of the CONTRACTOR'S performance under this Agreement does not operate as a release of CONTRACTOR'S responsibility for full compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

2. Period of Performance

2.1 This Agreement shall be effective April 1, 2021 and continues in effect through March 31, 2023, unless terminated earlier. CONTRACTOR shall commence performance upon signature of this Agreement by both Parties and shall diligently and continuously perform thereafter. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors is the only authority that may obligate the COUNTY for a non-cancelable multi-year agreement.

3. Compensation

3.1 The COUNTY shall pay the CONTRACTOR for services performed, products provided, and expenses incurred in accordance with the terms of Exhibit B, Payment Provisions. Maximum annual payments by COUNTY to CONTRACTOR shall not exceed a total aggregate amount of five hundred fifteen thousand five hundred twenty-six dollars (\$515,526). The COUNTY is not responsible for any

fees or costs incurred above or beyond the contracted amount and shall have no obligation to purchase any specified amount of services or products. Unless otherwise specifically stated in Exhibit B, COUNTY shall not be responsible for payment of any of CONTRACTOR'S expenses related to this Agreement.

3.2 No price increases will be permitted during the first year of this Agreement (If applicable). All price decreases (for example, if CONTRACTOR offers lower prices to another governmental entity) will automatically be extended to the COUNTY. The COUNTY requires written proof satisfactory to COUNTY of cost increases prior to any approved price adjustment. After the first year of the award, a minimum of 30-days advance notice in writing is required to be considered and approved by COUNTY. No retroactive price adjustments will be considered. Any price increases must be stated in a written amendment to this Agreement. The net dollar amount of profit will remain firm during the period of the Agreement. Annual increases shall not exceed the Consumer Price Index- All Consumers, All Items - Greater Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange County areas and be subject to satisfactory performance review by the COUNTY and approved (if needed) for budget funding by the Board of Supervisors.

3.3 CONTRACTOR shall be paid only in accordance with an invoice submitted to COUNTY by CONTRACTOR within fifteen (15) days from the last day of each calendar month, and COUNTY shall pay the invoice within thirty (30) working days from the date of receipt of the invoice. Payment shall be made to CONTRACTOR only after services have been rendered or delivery of materials or products, and acceptance has been made by COUNTY. Prepare invoices in duplicate. For this Agreement, send the original and duplicate copies of invoices to:

Riverside University Health System - Medical Center

Email Address: AP@ruhealth.org

26520 Cactus Avenue

Moreno Valley, CA 92555

- a) Each invoice shall contain a minimum of the following information: invoice number and date, description of services, amount due and any reimbursable expenses, sales/use tax if applicable, and an invoice total.
- b) Invoices shall be rendered monthly in arrears.

3.4 The COUNTY obligation for payment of this Agreement beyond the current fiscal year end is contingent upon and limited by the availability of COUNTY funding from which payment can be made. In the State of California, government agencies are not allowed to pay excess interest and late charges, per Government Code, Section 926.10. No legal liability on the part of the COUNTY shall arise

for payment beyond June 30 of each calendar year unless funds are made available for such payment. In the event that such funds are not forthcoming for any reason, COUNTY shall immediately notify CONTRACTOR in writing; and this Agreement shall be deemed terminated, have no further force, and effect.

4. Alteration or Changes to the Agreement

4.1 The Board of Supervisors and the COUNTY Purchasing Agent and/or his designee is the only authorized COUNTY representatives who may at any time, by written order, alter this Agreement. If any such alteration causes an increase or decrease in the cost of, or the time required for the performance under this Agreement, an equitable adjustment shall be made in the Agreement price or delivery schedule, or both, and the Agreement shall be modified by written amendment accordingly.

4.2 Any claim by the CONTRACTOR for additional payment related to this Agreement shall be made in writing by the CONTRACTOR within thirty (30) days of when the CONTRACTOR has or should have notice of any actual or claimed change in the work, which results in additional and unanticipated cost to the CONTRACTOR. If the COUNTY Purchasing Agent decides that the facts provide sufficient justification, he may authorize additional payment to the CONTRACTOR pursuant to the claim. Nothing in this section shall excuse the CONTRACTOR from proceeding with performance of the Agreement even if there has been a change.

5. Termination

5.1 COUNTY may terminate this Agreement without cause upon forty-five (45) days written notice served upon the CONTRACTOR stating the extent and effective date of termination.

5.2 COUNTY may, upon five (5) days written notice, terminate this Agreement for CONTRACTOR'S default, if CONTRACTOR refuses or fails to comply with the terms of this Agreement or fails to make progress that may endanger performance and does not immediately cure such failure. In the event of such termination, the COUNTY may proceed with the work in any manner deemed proper by COUNTY.

5.3 After receipt of the notice of termination, CONTRACTOR shall:

- (a) Stop all work under this Agreement on the date specified in the notice of termination; and
- (b) Transfer to COUNTY and deliver in the manner as directed by COUNTY any materials, reports or other products, which, if the Agreement had been completed or continued, would have been required to be furnished to COUNTY.

5.4 After termination, COUNTY shall make payment only for CONTRACTOR'S performance up to the date of termination in accordance with this Agreement.

5.5 CONTRACTOR'S rights under this Agreement shall terminate (except for fees accrued prior to the date of termination) upon dishonesty or a willful or material breach of this Agreement by CONTRACTOR; or in the event of CONTRACTOR'S unwillingness or inability for any reason whatsoever to perform the terms of this Agreement. In such event, CONTRACTOR shall not be entitled to any further compensation under this Agreement.

5.6 CONTRACTOR is not debarred from the System for Award Management (SAM). If the Agreement is federally or State funded, CONTRACTOR must notify the COUNTY immediately of a debarment. Reference: System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov> for Central Contractor Registry (CCR), Federal Agency Registration (Fedreg), Online Representations and Certifications Application, and Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)). Excluded Parties Listing System (EPLS) (<http://www.epls.gov>) (Executive Order 12549, 7 CFR Part 3017, 45 CFR Part 76, and 44 CFR Part 17). The System for Award Management (SAM) is the Official U.S. Government system that consolidated the capabilities of CCR/FedReg, ORCA, and EPLS.

5.7 The rights and remedies of COUNTY provided in this section shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or this Agreement.

6. Ownership/Use of Contract Materials and Products

6.1 CONTRACTOR owns all right, title, and interest in and to all CONTRACTOR content provided in connection with the services, including all software, technology, printed materials, associated media, documentation, and systems (collectively, "CONTRACTOR Property"). CONTRACTOR reserves all rights not expressly granted to COUNTY in this Agreement. COUNTY agrees not to reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble, translate, or attempt to learn the source code of any software related to CONTRACTOR Property.

6.2 CONTRACTOR hereby grants COUNTY a non-exclusive license during the term of this Agreement to use CONTRACTOR Property for COUNTY'S own business purposes. This license is granted conditional upon the payment to CONTRACTOR of the applicable fees in this Agreement. In the event of a delinquency in payment of any such fees, any rights granted to COUNTY to use CONTRACTOR Property shall be revoked.

6.3 COUNTY owns all right, title, and interest in and to any custom questions, responses, and other data and information provided by COUNTY and its survey recipients to CONTRACTOR ("COUNTY Data").

6.4 In connection with CONTRACTOR'S performance of the services, CONTRACTOR uses aggregated data. In order to further CONTRACTOR'S research and provide benchmarks and indices, COUNTY agrees to allow CONTRACTOR to retain COUNTY Data in a de-identified format following the termination of this Agreement.

7. Conduct of Contractor

7.1 The CONTRACTOR covenants that it presently has no interest, including, but not limited to, other projects or contracts, and shall not acquire any such interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with CONTRACTOR'S performance under this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR further covenants that no person or subcontractor having any such interest shall be employed or retained by CONTRACTOR under this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR agrees to inform the COUNTY of all the CONTRACTOR'S interests, if any, which are or may be perceived as incompatible with the COUNTY's interests.

7.2 The CONTRACTOR shall not, under circumstances which could be interpreted as an attempt to influence the recipient in the conduct of his/her duties, accept any gratuity or special favor from individuals or firms with whom the CONTRACTOR is doing business or proposing to do business, in accomplishing the work under this Agreement.

7.3 The CONTRACTOR or its employees shall not offer gifts, gratuity, favors, and entertainment directly or indirectly to COUNTY employees.

8. Inspection of Service; Quality Control/Assurance

8.1 All performance (which includes services, workmanship, materials, supplies and equipment furnished or utilized in the performance of this Agreement) shall be subject to inspection and test by the COUNTY or other regulatory agencies at all times. The CONTRACTOR shall provide adequate cooperation to any inspector or other COUNTY representative to permit him/her to determine the CONTRACTOR'S conformity with the terms of this Agreement. If any services performed or products provided by CONTRACTOR are not in conformance with the terms of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall have the right to require the CONTRACTOR to perform the services or provide the products in conformance with the terms of the Agreement at no additional cost to the COUNTY. When the services to be performed or the products to be provided are of such nature that the difference cannot be corrected; the COUNTY shall have the right to: (1) require the CONTRACTOR immediately to take all necessary steps to ensure future performance in conformity with the terms of the Agreement; and/or (2) reduce the Agreement price to reflect the reduced value of the services performed or products

provided. The COUNTY may also terminate this Agreement for default and charge to CONTRACTOR any costs incurred by the COUNTY because of the CONTRACTOR'S failure to perform.

8.2 CONTRACTOR shall establish adequate procedures for self-monitoring and quality control and assurance to ensure proper performance under this Agreement; and shall permit a COUNTY representative or other regulatory official to monitor, assess, or evaluate CONTRACTOR'S performance under this Agreement at any time, upon reasonable notice to the CONTRACTOR.

9. **Independent Contractor/Employment Eligibility**

9.1 The CONTRACTOR is, for purposes relating to this Agreement, an independent contractor and shall not be deemed an employee of the COUNTY. It is expressly understood and agreed that the CONTRACTOR (including its employees, agents, and subcontractors) shall in no event be entitled to any benefits to which COUNTY employees are entitled, including but not limited to overtime, any retirement benefits, worker's compensation benefits, and injury leave or other leave benefits. There shall be no employer-employee relationship between the Parties; and CONTRACTOR shall hold COUNTY harmless from any and all claims that may be made against COUNTY based upon any contention by a third party that an employer-employee relationship exists by reason of this Agreement. It is further understood and agreed by the Parties that CONTRACTOR in the performance of this Agreement is subject to the control or direction of COUNTY merely as to the results to be accomplished and not as to the means and methods for accomplishing the results.

9.2 CONTRACTOR warrants that it shall make its best effort to fully comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations regarding the employment of aliens and others and to ensure that employees performing work under this Agreement meet the citizenship or alien status requirement set forth in federal statutes and regulations. CONTRACTOR shall obtain, from all employees performing work hereunder, all verification and other documentation of employment eligibility status required by federal or state statutes and regulations including, but not limited to, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, 8 U.S.C. §1324 et seq., as they currently exist and as they may be hereafter amended. CONTRACTOR shall retain all such documentation for all covered employees, for the period prescribed by the law.

9.3 Ineligible Person shall be any individual or entity who: Is currently excluded, suspended, debarred or otherwise ineligible to participate in the federal health care programs; or has been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of health care items or services and has not been reinstated in the federal health care programs after a period of exclusion, suspension, debarment, or ineligibility.

9.4 CONTRACTOR shall screen prospective Covered Individuals prior to hire or engagement. CONTRACTOR shall not hire or engage any Ineligible Person to provide services directly relative to this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall screen all current Covered Individuals within sixty (60) days of execution of this Agreement to ensure that they have not become Ineligible Persons unless CONTRACTOR has performed such screening on same Covered Individuals under a separate agreement with COUNTY within the past six (6) months. Covered Individuals shall be required to disclose to CONTRACTOR immediately any debarment, exclusion or other event that makes the Covered Individual an Ineligible Person. CONTRACTOR shall notify COUNTY within five (5) business days after it becomes aware if a Covered Individual providing services directly relative to this Agreement becomes debarred, excluded or otherwise becomes an Ineligible Person.

9.5 CONTRACTOR acknowledges that Ineligible Persons are precluded from providing federal and state funded health care services by contract with COUNTY in the event that they are currently sanctioned or excluded by a federal or state law enforcement regulatory or licensing agency. If CONTRACTOR becomes aware that a Covered Individual has become an Ineligible Person, CONTRACTOR shall remove such individual from responsibility for, or involvement with, COUNTY business operations related to this Agreement.

9.6 CONTRACTOR shall notify COUNTY within five (5) business days if a Covered Individual or entity is currently excluded, suspended or debarred, or is identified as such after being sanction screened. Such individual or entity shall be promptly removed from participating in any activity associated with this Agreement.

10. Subcontract for Work or Services

No contract shall be made by the CONTRACTOR with any other party for furnishing any of the work or services under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the COUNTY; but this provision shall not require the approval of contracts of employment between the CONTRACTOR and personnel assigned under this Agreement, or for parties named in the proposal and agreed to under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR will provide a copy of its SOC 2 Type II audit, which lists our current subservice providers.

11. Disputes

11.1 The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disputes amicably at the working level. If that is not successful, the dispute shall be referred to the senior management of the Parties. Any dispute relating to this Agreement, which is not resolved by the Parties, shall be decided by the COUNTY's Purchasing Department's Compliance Contract Officer who shall furnish the decision in writing. The decision of the

COUNTY's Compliance Contract Officer shall be final and conclusive unless determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have been fraudulent, capricious, arbitrary, or so grossly erroneous to imply bad faith. The CONTRACTOR shall proceed diligently with the performance of this Agreement pending the resolution of a dispute.

11.2 Prior to the filing of any legal action related to this Agreement, the Parties shall be obligated to attend a mediation session in Riverside County before a neutral third party mediator. A second mediation session shall be required if the first session is not successful. The Parties shall share the cost of the mediations.

12. Licensing and Permits

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all State or other licensing requirements, including but not limited to the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code. All licensing requirements shall be met at the time proposals are submitted to the COUNTY. CONTRACTOR warrants that it has all necessary permits, approvals, certificates, waivers and exemptions necessary for performance of this Agreement as required by the laws and regulations of the United States, the State of California, the County of Riverside and all other governmental agencies with jurisdiction, and shall maintain these throughout the term of this Agreement.

13. Use By Other Political Entities

The CONTRACTOR agrees to extend the same pricing, terms, and conditions as stated in this Agreement to each and every political entity, special district, and related non-profit entity in Riverside County. It is understood that other entities shall make purchases in their own name, make direct payment, and be liable directly to the CONTRACTOR; and COUNTY shall in no way be responsible to CONTRACTOR for other entities' purchases.

14. Non-Discrimination

CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate in the provision of services, allocation of benefits, accommodation in facilities, or employment of personnel on the basis of ethnic group identification, race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status or sex in the performance of this Agreement; and, to the extent they shall be found to be applicable hereto, shall comply with the provisions of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code 12900 et. seq), the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. S1210 et seq.) and all other applicable laws or regulations.

15. Records and Documents

CONTRACTOR shall make available, upon written request by any duly authorized Federal, State, or COUNTY agency, a copy of this Agreement and such books, documents and records as are necessary to certify the nature and extent of the CONTRACTOR'S costs related to this Agreement. All such books, documents and records shall be maintained by CONTRACTOR for at least five (5) years following termination of this Agreement and be available for audit by the COUNTY. CONTRACTOR shall provide to the COUNTY reports and information related to this Agreement as requested by COUNTY.

16. Confidentiality

16.1 The CONTRACTOR shall not use for personal gain or make other improper use of privileged or confidential information which is acquired in connection with this Agreement. The term "privileged or confidential information" includes but is not limited to: unpublished or sensitive technological or scientific information; medical, personnel, or security records; anticipated material requirements or pricing/purchasing actions; COUNTY information or data which is not subject to public disclosure; COUNTY operational procedures; and knowledge of selection of contractors, subcontractors or suppliers in advance of official announcement.

16.2 The CONTRACTOR shall protect from unauthorized disclosure names and other identifying information concerning persons receiving services pursuant to this Agreement, except for general statistical information not identifying any person. The CONTRACTOR shall not use such information for any purpose other than carrying out the CONTRACTOR'S obligations under this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR shall promptly transmit to the COUNTY all third party requests for disclosure of such information. The CONTRACTOR shall not disclose, except as otherwise specifically permitted by this Agreement or authorized in advance in writing by the COUNTY, any such information to anyone other than the COUNTY. For purposes of this paragraph, identity shall include, but not be limited to, name, identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particulars assigned to the individual, such as finger or voice print or a photograph.

17. Administration/Contract Liaison

The COUNTY Purchasing Agent, or designee, shall administer this Agreement on behalf of the COUNTY. The Purchasing Department is to serve as the liaison with CONTRACTOR in connection with this Agreement.

18. Notices

All correspondence and notices required or contemplated by this Agreement shall be delivered to the respective Parties at the addresses set forth below and are deemed submitted two days after their deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid:

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Riverside University Health System
26520 Cactus Avenue
Moreno Valley, CA 92555

CONTRACTOR

NRC Health
1245 Q. Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

19. Force Majeure

If either Party is unable to comply with any provision of this Agreement due to causes beyond its reasonable control, and which could not have been reasonably anticipated, such as acts of God, acts of war, civil disorders, or other similar acts, such Party shall not be held liable for such failure to comply.

20. EDD Reporting Requirements

In order to comply with child support enforcement requirements of the State of California, the COUNTY may be required to submit a Report of Independent Contractor(s) form DE 542 to the Employment Development Department. The CONTRACTOR agrees to furnish the required data and certifications to the COUNTY within ten (10) days of notification of award of Agreement when required by the EDD. This data will be transmitted to governmental agencies charged with the establishment and enforcement of child support orders. Failure of the CONTRACTOR to timely submit the data and/or certificates required may result in the contract being awarded to another contractor. In the event a contract has been issued, failure of the CONTRACTOR to comply with all federal and state reporting requirements for child support enforcement or to comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignments Orders and Notices of Assignment shall constitute a material breach of Agreement. If CONTRACTOR has any questions concerning this reporting requirement, please call (916) 657-0529. CONTRACTOR should also contact its local Employment Tax Customer Service Office listed in the telephone directory in the State Government section under "Employment Development Department" or access their Internet site at www.edd.ca.gov.

21. Hold Harmless/Indemnification

21.1 CONTRACTOR shall indemnify and hold harmless the County of Riverside, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives (individually and collectively hereinafter referred to as Indemnitees) from any liability, action, claim or damage

whatsoever, based or asserted upon any services of CONTRACTOR, its officers, employees, subcontractors, agents or representatives arising out of or in any way relating to a breach of this Agreement by CONTRACTOR, its officers, employees, subcontractors, agents, or representatives, including but not limited to **property damage**, bodily injury, or death or any other element of any kind or nature. CONTRACTOR shall defend the Indemnitees at its sole expense including all costs and fees (including, but not limited to, attorney fees, cost of investigation, defense and settlements or awards) in any claim or action based upon such alleged acts, omissions or services.

21.2 With respect to any action or claim subject to indemnification herein by CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR shall, at their sole cost, have the right to use counsel of their own choice and shall have the right to adjust, settle, or compromise any such action or claim without the prior consent of COUNTY; provided, however, that any such adjustment, settlement or compromise in no manner whatsoever limits or circumscribes CONTRACTOR'S indemnification to Indemnitees as set forth herein.

21.3 CONTRACTOR'S obligation hereunder shall be satisfied when CONTRACTOR has provided to COUNTY the appropriate form of dismissal relieving COUNTY from any liability for the action or claim involved.

21.4 The specified insurance limits required in this Agreement shall in no way limit or circumscribe CONTRACTOR'S obligations to indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnitees herein from third party claims.

22. Insurance

22.1 Without limiting or diminishing the CONTRACTOR'S obligation to indemnify or hold the COUNTY harmless, CONTRACTOR shall procure and maintain or cause to be maintained, at its sole cost and expense, the following insurance coverage's during the term of this Agreement. As respects to the nsurance section only, the COUNTY herein refers to the County of Riverside, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts, and Departments, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, employees, elected or appointed officials, agents, or representatives as Additional Insureds.

A. Workers' Compensation:

If the CONTRACTOR has employees as defined by the State of California, the CONTRACTOR shall maintain statutory Workers' Compensation Insurance (Coverage A) as prescribed by the laws of the State of California. Policy shall include Employers' Liability (Coverage B) including Occupational Disease with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per person per accident. The policy shall be endorsed to waive subrogation in favor of The County of Riverside.

B. Commercial General Liability:

Commercial General Liability insurance coverage, including but not limited to, premises liability, unmodified contractual liability, products and completed operations liability, personal and advertising injury, and cross liability coverage, covering claims which may arise from or out of CONTRACTOR'S performance of its obligations hereunder. Policy shall name the COUNTY as Additional Insured. Policy's limit of liability shall not be less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence combined single limit. If such insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to this Agreement or be no less than two (2) times the occurrence limit.

C. Vehicle Liability:

If vehicles or mobile equipment is used in the performance of the obligations under this Agreement, then CONTRACTOR shall maintain liability insurance for all owned, non-owned, or hired vehicles so used in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence combined single limit. If such insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to this Agreement or be no less than two (2) times the occurrence limit. Policy shall name the COUNTY as Additional Insureds.

D. Professional Liability:

CONTRACTOR shall maintain Professional Liability Insurance providing coverage for the CONTRACTOR'S performance of work included within this Agreement, with a limit of liability of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate. If CONTRACTOR'S Professional Liability Insurance is written on a claims made basis rather than an occurrence basis, such insurance shall continue through the term of this Agreement and CONTRACTOR shall purchase at his sole expense either 1) an Extended Reporting Endorsement (also, known as Tail Coverage); or 2) Prior Dates Coverage from new insurer with a retroactive date back to the date of, or prior to, the inception of this Agreement; or 3) demonstrate through Certificates of Insurance that CONTRACTOR has maintained continuous coverage with the same or original insurer. Coverage provided under items; 1), 2), or 3) will continue as long as the law allows.

E. General Insurance Provisions - All lines:

1) Any insurance carrier providing insurance coverage hereunder shall be admitted to the State of California and have an A M BEST rating of not less than A: VIII (A:8) unless such requirements are waived, in writing, by the COUNTY Risk Manager. If the COUNTY'S Risk Manager waives a requirement for a particular insurer such waiver is only valid for that specific insurer and only for one policy term.

2) The CONTRACTOR must declare its insurance self-insured retention for each coverage required herein. If any such self-insured retention exceeds \$500,000 per occurrence each such retention

shall have the prior written consent of the COUNTY Risk Manager before the commencement of operations under this Agreement. Upon notification of self-insured retention unacceptable to the COUNTY, and at the election of the COUNTY'S Risk Manager, CONTRACTOR'S carriers shall either; 1) reduce or eliminate such self-insured retention as respects this Agreement with the COUNTY, or 2) procure a bond which guarantees payment of losses and related investigations, claims administration, and defense costs and expenses.

3) CONTRACTOR shall cause CONTRACTOR'S insurance carrier(s) to furnish the County of Riverside with either 1) a properly executed original Certificate(s) of Insurance and certified original copies of Endorsements effecting coverage as required herein, and 2) if requested to do so orally or in writing by the COUNTY Risk Manager, provide original Certified copies of policies including all Endorsements and all attachments thereto, showing such insurance is in full force and effect. Further, said Certificate(s) and policies of insurance shall contain the covenant of the insurance carrier(s) that thirty (30) days written notice shall be given to the County of Riverside prior to any material modification, cancellation, expiration or reduction in coverage of such insurance. In the event of a material modification, cancellation, expiration, or reduction in coverage, this Agreement shall terminate forthwith, unless the County of Riverside receives, prior to such effective date, another properly executed original Certificate of Insurance and original copies of endorsements or certified original policies, including all endorsements and attachments thereto evidencing coverage's set forth herein and the insurance required herein is in full force and effect. CONTRACTOR shall not commence operations until the COUNTY has been furnished original Certificate (s) of Insurance and certified original copies of endorsements and if requested, certified original policies of insurance including all endorsements and any and all other attachments as required in this Section. An individual authorized by the insurance carrier shall sign the original endorsements for each policy and the Certificate of Insurance.

4) It is understood and agreed to by the Parties hereto that the CONTRACTOR'S insurance shall be construed as primary insurance, and the COUNTY'S insurance and/or deductibles and/or self-insured retention's or self-insured programs shall not be construed as contributory.

5) If, during the term of this Agreement or any extension thereof, there is a material change in the scope of services; or, there is a material change in the equipment to be used in the performance of the scope of work; or, the term of this Agreement, including any extensions thereof, exceeds five (5) years; the COUNTY reserves the right to adjust the types of insurance and the monetary limits of liability required under this Agreement, if in the COUNTY Risk Manager's reasonable judgment, the amount or type of insurance carried by the CONTRACTOR has become inadequate.

6) CONTRACTOR shall pass down the insurance obligations contained herein to all tiers of subcontractors working under this Agreement.

7) The insurance requirements contained in this Agreement may be met with a program(s) of self-insurance acceptable to the COUNTY.

8) CONTRACTOR agrees to notify COUNTY of any claim by a third party or any incident or event that may give rise to a claim arising from the performance of this Agreement.

23. General

23.1 CONTRACTOR shall not delegate or assign any interest in this Agreement, whether by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of COUNTY. Any attempt to delegate or assign any interest herein shall be deemed void and of no force or effect.

23.2 Any waiver by COUNTY of any breach of any one or more of the terms of this Agreement shall not be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent or other breach of the same or of any other term of this Agreement. Failure on the part of COUNTY to require exact, full, and complete compliance with any terms of this Agreement shall not be construed as in any manner changing the terms or preventing COUNTY from enforcement of the terms of this Agreement.

23.3 In the event the CONTRACTOR receives payment under this Agreement, which is later disallowed by COUNTY for nonconformance with the terms of the Agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall promptly refund the disallowed amount to the COUNTY on request; or at its option the COUNTY may offset the amount disallowed from any payment due to the CONTRACTOR.

23.4 CONTRACTOR shall not provide partial delivery or shipment of services or products unless specifically stated in the Agreement.

23.5 CONTRACTOR shall not provide any services or products subject to any chattel mortgage or under a conditional sales contract or other agreement by which an interest is retained by a third party. The CONTRACTOR warrants that it has good title to all materials or products used by CONTRACTOR or provided to COUNTY pursuant to this Agreement, free from all liens, claims, or encumbrances.

23.6 Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit the COUNTY from acquiring the same type or equivalent equipment, products, materials or services from other sources, when deemed by the COUNTY to be in its best interest. The COUNTY reserves the right to purchase more or less than the quantities specified in this Agreement.

23.7 The COUNTY agrees to cooperate with the CONTRACTOR in the CONTRACTOR'S performance under this Agreement, including, if stated in the Agreement, providing the CONTRACTOR with reasonable facilities and timely access to COUNTY data, information, and personnel.

23.8 CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations. CONTRACTOR will comply with all applicable COUNTY policies and procedures. In the event that there is a conflict between the various laws or regulations that may apply, the CONTRACTOR shall comply with the more restrictive law or regulation.

23.9 CONTRACTOR shall comply with all air pollution control, water pollution, safety and health ordinances, statutes, or regulations, which apply to performance under this Agreement.

23.10 CONTRACTOR shall comply with all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and codes as set forth by the U.S. Department of Labor and the State of California (Cal/OSHA).

23.11 This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Any legal action related to the performance or interpretation of this Agreement shall be filed only in the Superior Court of the State of California located in Riverside, California, and the Parties waive any provision of law providing for a change of venue to another location. In the event any provision in this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will nevertheless continue in full force without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

23.12 This Agreement, including any attachments or exhibits, constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous representations, proposals, discussions and communications, whether oral or in writing. This Agreement may be changed or modified only by a written amendment signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

23.13 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, but all of which together will constitute one instrument. Each Party to this Agreement agrees to the use of electronic signatures, such as digital signatures that meet the requirements of the California Uniform Electronic Transactions Act ("CUETA") Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1633.1 to 1633.17), for executing this Agreement. The Parties further agree that the electronic signatures of the Parties included in this Agreement are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Electronic signature means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record pursuant to the CUETA as amended from time to time. The CUETA authorizes use of

an electronic signature for transactions and contracts among parties in California, including a government agency. Digital signature means an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature, and shall be reasonably relied upon by the Parties. For purposes of this section, a digital signature is a type of "electronic signature" as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 1633.2 of the Civil Code.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused their duly authorized representatives to execute this Agreement.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a political subdivision of the State of California


By: Karen S. Spiegel

Name: Karen Spiegel

Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date: DEC 14 2021

National Research Corporation, a Delaware corporation

By: 
DocuSigned by:
F84353048E79440...

Name: Michael D. Hays

Title: CEO

Date: 10/19/2021

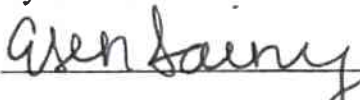
ATTEST:

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory P. Priamos
County Counsel

By: 

Name: Esen Sainz

Title: Deputy County Counsel

Date: 10-22-21

EXHIBIT A**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

CONTRACTOR shall administer patient satisfaction survey services for the Patient & Family Experience Programs and Real Time Program and provide survey results and reports to the COUNTY.

membership includes the following Experience Improvement solution(s):

Real-time Feedback

- ☐ Enterprise (All care settings) ☒ Emergency Department ☐ Medical Practice
☒ Inpatient ☒ Outpatient ☐ Urgent Care

CAHPS®

- ☐ ACO CAHPS ☒ CGCAHPS ☐ PCMH ☒ HCAHPS
☐ ICH CAHPS ☐ CAHPS Hospice ☐ HHCAHPS ☒ OAS CAHPS
☐ Child HCAHPS ☒ CAHPS for MIPS (formerly CAHPS for PQRS)

Other

- ☐ Behavioral Health ☐ Practicing Excellence ☒ Workforce Engagement
☐ Care Transitions [care setting(s)]

REAL TIME - MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ANNUAL PATIENT VISITS INCLUDING:

- Inpatient
- Emergency
- Outpatient (Lab, Testing, Imaging, OP Surgery, etc.)

135,000 per year

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS - REAL TIME (MEDICAL PRACTICE)

169 per year

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HCAHPS SURVEYS BY MAIL FOR CMS REPORTING

600 per year

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CG CAHPS SURVEYS BY MAIL FOR PRIME REPORTING

1,050 per year

TOTAL NUMBER CCN's - ICH / OAS / HH / HOSPICE CAHPS

1 per year

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TAX ID'S (TIN) - CAHPS for PQRS / ACO CAHPS

1 per year

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES - WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT/AHRQ

3,000 per year

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITALS/FACILITIES

1 per year

CAHPS Survey Methodology (Select One):

☒ Mail

☐ Phone

*ACO CAHPS® and CAHPS for MIPS® require mixed phone/email methodology

Experience Solution Capabilities

Real-time Feedback

Data Source

- HL7 message transmission of ADT A03 "discharge patient" message types (recommended)
- Daily batched flat file via SFTP (alternative)
- NRC Health provides required data field and formatting specifications

Customer Engagement

- Multi-channel outreach via E-mail, IVR, and/or SMS within 24 hours of qualified inbound record
- Standard question sets by population with flexibility to customize, add, or delete questions
- English and Spanish are standard; French, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Russian available (additional fees apply)

Alerting and Service Recovery

- Emailed alerts
- Online workflow queues alerts for review and action

Reporting and Analytics

- Access to secure online reporting platform based on user-level location access and permissions
- Reports and Analytics
 - Role-specific Dashboards
 - Provider Scorecards with integrated 2-minute skill-building videos
 - Interactive data analytics (e.g. Trend, Rank and Compare, Segmentation)
 - Qualitative Analytics using Natural Language Processing (ability to override)
 - Raw data extracts and custom data views (upon request)
 - Subscription to receive emailed reports
- Goal setting at individual provider and organization-wide levels
- Service Line Benchmarks (Inpatient, Emergency, Outpatient, Urgent Care, etc.) and provider classification and specialty national benchmarks

Real-time Skill-building Tools

- Video-based coaching tips
- Integrated skill-building provider scorecards (requires Real-time Feedback subscription)

CMSIPS

- Measurement for HCAHPS, HHCAHPS, ICH CAHPS, CAHPS for MIPS, ACO CAHPS, OAS CAHPS
- HCAHPS can be integrated with Real-time Feedback (requires Real-time Feedback subscription)
- CMS compliant data collection and submission

EXHIBIT B**PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

1.0 CONTRACTOR shall submit quarterly invoices. Fee Schedule is illustrated below:

<i>Period of Performance</i>	<i>Annual Membership Fee</i>	<i>Quarterly Amount</i>
April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	\$251,476	\$62,869
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	\$264,050	\$66,012.50
Total	\$515,526	N/A

2.0 COUNTY shall pay the invoice within thirty (30) working days from the date of receipt of the invoice.

3.0 Maximum payments by COUNTY to CONTRACTOR shall not exceed five hundred fifteen thousand five hundred twenty-six dollars (\$515,526) for the duration of this Agreement.

4.0 Travel or related expenses incurred by CONTRACTOR while performing functions on behalf of COUNTY at the request of COUNTY may be reimbursed in accordance with the procedures and standards set out in Board Policy D-1. The Board Policy D-1 can be found for public access on <http://www.rivcocob.org/boardpolicies/policy-d/POLICY-D01.pdf>.

**HIPAA Business Associate Agreement
Addendum to Contract
Between the County of Riverside and National Research Corporation dba NRC Health**

This HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (the "Addendum") supplements, and is made part of the Patient Satisfaction Survey (the "Underlying Agreement") between the County of Riverside ("County") and **National Research Corporation dba NRC Health** ("Contractor") and shall be effective as of the date the Underlying Agreement is approved by both Parties (the "Effective Date").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, County and Contractor entered into the Underlying Agreement pursuant to which the Contractor provides services to County, and in conjunction with the provision of such services certain protected health information ("PHI") and/or certain electronic protected health information ("ePHI") may be created by or made available to Contractor for the purposes of carrying out its obligations under the Underlying Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), Public Law 104-191 enacted August 21, 1996, and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH") of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5 enacted February 17, 2009, and the laws and regulations promulgated subsequent thereto, as may be amended from time to time, are applicable to the protection of any use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI pursuant to the Underlying Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, County is a covered entity, as defined in the Privacy Rule; and,

WHEREAS, to the extent County discloses PHI and/or ePHI to Contractor or Contractor creates, receives, maintains, transmits, or has access to PHI and/or ePHI of County, Contractor is a business associate, as defined in the Privacy Rule; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to 42 USC §17931 and §17934, certain provisions of the Security Rule and Privacy Rule apply to a business associate of a covered entity in the same manner that they apply to the covered entity, the additional security and privacy requirements of HITECH are applicable to business associates and must be incorporated into the business associate agreement, and a business associate is liable for civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply with these security and/or privacy provisions; and,

WHEREAS, the parties mutually agree that any use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI must be in compliance with the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, HIPAA, HITECH and any other applicable law; and,

WHEREAS, the parties intend to enter into this Addendum to address the requirements and obligations set forth in the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, HITECH and HIPAA as they apply to Contractor as a business associate of County, including the establishment of permitted and required uses and disclosures of PHI and/or ePHI created or received by Contractor during the course of performing functions, services and activities on behalf of County, and appropriate limitations and conditions on such uses and disclosures;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Definitions.** Terms used, but not otherwise defined, in this Addendum shall have the same meaning as those terms in HITECH, HIPAA, Security Rule and/or Privacy Rule, as may be amended from time to time.
 - A. "Breach" when used in connection with PHI means the acquisition, access, use or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted under subpart E of the Privacy Rule which compromises the security or privacy of the PHI, and shall have the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §164.402.
 - (1) Except as provided below in Paragraph (2) of this definition, acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted by subpart E of the Privacy Rule is presumed to be a breach unless Contractor demonstrates that there is a low probability that the PHI has been compromised based on a risk assessment of at least the following four factors:

- (a) The nature and extent of the PHI involved, including the types of identifiers and the likelihood of re-identification;
 - (b) The unauthorized person who used the PHI or to whom the disclosure was made;
 - (c) Whether the PHI was actually acquired or viewed; and
 - (d) The extent to which the risk to the PHI has been mitigated.
- (2) Breach excludes:
- (a) Any unintentional acquisition, access or use of PHI by a workforce member or person acting under the authority of a covered entity or business associate, if such acquisition, access or use was made in good faith and within the scope of authority and does not result in further use or disclosure in a manner not permitted under subpart E of the Privacy Rule.
 - (b) Any inadvertent disclosure by a person who is authorized to access PHI at a covered entity or business associate to another person authorized to access PHI at the same covered entity, business associate, or organized health care arrangement in which County participates, and the information received as a result of such disclosure is not further used or disclosed in a manner not permitted by subpart E of the Privacy Rule.
 - (c) A disclosure of PHI where a covered entity or business associate has a good faith belief that an unauthorized person to whom the disclosure was made would not reasonably have been able to retain such information.
- B. "Business associate" has the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §164.501, including but not limited to a subcontractor that creates, receives, maintains, transmits or accesses PHI on behalf of the business associate.
- C. "Data aggregation" has the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §164.501.
- D. "Designated record set" as defined in 45 CFR §164.501 means a group of records maintained by or for a covered entity that may include: the medical records and billing records about individuals maintained by or for a covered health care provider; the enrollment, payment, claims adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for a health plan; or, used, in whole or in part, by or for the covered entity to make decisions about individuals.
- E. "Electronic protected health information" ("ePHI") as defined in 45 CFR §160.103 means protected health information transmitted by or maintained in electronic media.
- F. "Electronic health record" means an electronic record of health-related information on an individual that is created, gathered, managed, and consulted by authorized health care clinicians and staff, and shall have the meaning given such term in 42 USC §17921(5).
- G. "Health care operations" has the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §164.501.
- H. "Individual" as defined in 45 CFR §160.103 means the person who is the subject of protected health information.
- I. "Person" as defined in 45 CFR §160.103 means a natural person, trust or estate, partnership, corporation, professional association or corporation, or other entity, public or private.
- J. "Privacy Rule" means the HIPAA regulations codified at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E.
- K. "Protected health information" ("PHI") has the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §160.103, which includes ePHI.
- L. "Required by law" has the meaning given such term in 45 CFR §164.103.
- M. "Secretary" means the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS").

- N. "Security incident" as defined in 45 CFR §164.304 means the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system.
- O. "Security Rule" means the HIPAA Regulations codified at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and C.
- P. "Subcontractor" as defined in 45 CFR §160.103 means a person to whom a business associate delegates a function, activity, or service, other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of such business associate.
- Q. "Unsecured protected health information" and "unsecured PHI" as defined in 45 CFR §164.402 means PHI not rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized persons through use of a technology or methodology specified by the Secretary in the guidance issued under 42 USC §17932(h)(2).

2. Scope of Use and Disclosure by Contractor of County's PHI and/or ePHI.

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this Addendum, Contractor may use, disclose, or access PHI and/or ePHI as necessary to perform any and all obligations of Contractor under the Underlying Agreement or to perform functions, activities or services for, or on behalf of, County as specified in this Addendum, if such use or disclosure does not violate HIPAA, HITECH, the Privacy Rule and/or Security Rule.
- B. Unless otherwise limited herein, in addition to any other uses and/or disclosures permitted or authorized by this Addendum or required by law, in accordance with 45 CFR §164.504(e)(2), Contractor may:
 - 1) Use PHI and/or ePHI if necessary for Contractor's proper management and administration and to carry out its legal responsibilities; and,
 - 2) Disclose PHI and/or ePHI for the purpose of Contractor's proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities, only if:
 - a) The disclosure is required by law; or,
 - b) Contractor obtains reasonable assurances, in writing, from the person to whom Contractor will disclose such PHI and/or ePHI that the person will:
 - i. Hold such PHI and/or ePHI in confidence and use or further disclose it only for the purpose for which Contractor disclosed it to the person, or as required by law; and,
 - ii. Notify Contractor of any instances of which it becomes aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached; and,
 - 3) Use PHI to provide data aggregation services relating to the health care operations of County pursuant to the Underlying Agreement or as requested by County; and,
 - 4) De-identify all PHI and/or ePHI of County received by Contractor under this Addendum provided that the de-identification conforms to the requirements of the Privacy Rule and/or Security Rule and does not preclude timely payment and/or claims processing and receipt.
- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in any instance where applicable state and/or federal laws and/or regulations are more stringent in their requirements than the provisions of HIPAA, including, but not limited to, prohibiting disclosure of mental health and/or substance abuse records, the applicable state and/or federal laws and/or regulations shall control the disclosure of records.

3. **Prohibited Uses and Disclosures.**

- A. Contractor may neither use, disclose, nor access PHI and/or ePHI in a manner not authorized by the Underlying Agreement or this Addendum without patient authorization or de-identification of the PHI and/or the ePHI and as authorized in writing from County.
- B. Contractor may neither use, disclose, nor access PHI and/or ePHI it receives from County or from another business associate of County, except as permitted or required by this Addendum, or as required by law.
- C. Contractor agrees not to make any disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI that County would be prohibited from making.
- D. Contractor shall not use or disclose PHI for any purpose prohibited by the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, HIPAA and/or HITECH, including, but not limited to 42 USC §17935 and §17936. Contractor agrees:
 - 1) Not to use or disclose PHI for fundraising , unless pursuant to the Underlying Agreement and only if permitted by and in compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR §164.514(f) or 45 CFR §164.508;
 - 2) Not to use or disclose PHI for marketing, as defined in 45 CFR §164.501, unless pursuant to the Underlying Agreement and only if permitted by and in compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR §164.508(a)(3);
 - 3) Not to disclose PHI, except as otherwise required by law, to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations, if the individual has requested this restriction pursuant to 42 USC §17935(a) and 45 CFR §164.522, and has paid out of pocket in full for the health care item or service to which the PHI solely relates; and,
 - 4) Not to receive, directly or indirectly, remuneration in exchange for PHI, or engage in any act that would constitute a sale of PHI, as defined in 45 CFR §164.502(a)(5)(ii), unless permitted by the Underlying Agreement and in compliance with the requirements of a valid authorization under 45 CFR §164.508(a)(4). This prohibition shall not apply to payment by County to Contractor for services provided pursuant to the Underlying Agreement.

4. **Obligations of County.**

- A. County agrees to make its best efforts to notify Contractor promptly in writing of any restrictions on the use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI agreed to by County that may affect Contractor's ability to perform its obligations under the Underlying Agreement, or this Addendum.
- B. County agrees to make its best efforts to promptly notify Contractor in writing of any changes in, or revocation of, permission by any individual to use or disclose PHI and/or ePHI, if such changes or revocation may affect Contractor's ability to perform its obligations under the Underlying Agreement, or this Addendum.
- C. County agrees to make its best efforts to promptly notify Contractor in writing of any known limitation(s) in its notice of privacy practices to the extent that such limitation may affect Contractor's use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI.
- D. County agrees not to request Contractor to use or disclose PHI and/or ePHI in any manner that would not be permissible under HITECH, HIPAA, the Privacy Rule, and/or Security Rule.
- E. County agrees to obtain any authorizations necessary for the use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI, so that Contractor can perform its obligations under this Addendum and/or Underlying Agreement.

5. **Obligations of Contractor.** In connection with the use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI, Contractor agrees to:

- A. Use or disclose PHI only if such use or disclosure complies with each applicable requirement of 45 CFR §164.504(e). Contractor shall also comply with the additional privacy requirements that are applicable to covered entities in HITECH, as may be amended from time to time.

- B. Not use or further disclose PHI and/or ePHI other than as permitted or required by this Addendum or as required by law. Contractor shall promptly notify County if Contractor is required by law to disclose PHI and/or ePHI.
 - C. Use appropriate safeguards and comply, where applicable, with the Security Rule with respect to ePHI, to prevent use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI other than as provided for by this Addendum.
 - D. Mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Contractor of a use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI by Contractor in violation of this Addendum.
 - E. Report to County any use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI not provided for by this Addendum or otherwise in violation of HITECH, HIPAA, the Privacy Rule, and/or Security Rule of which Contractor becomes aware, including breaches of unsecured PHI as required by 45 CFR §164.410.
 - F. In accordance with 45 CFR §164.502(e)(1)(ii), require that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, transmit or access PHI on behalf of the Contractor agree through contract to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to Contractor with respect to such PHI and/or ePHI, including the restrictions and conditions pursuant to this Addendum.
 - G. Make available to County or the Secretary, in the time and manner designated by County or Secretary, Contractor's internal practices, books and records relating to the use, disclosure and privacy protection of PHI received from County, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of County, for purposes of determining, investigating or auditing Contractor's and/or County's compliance with the Privacy Rule.
 - H. Request, use or disclose only the minimum amount of PHI necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the request, use or disclosure in accordance with 42 USC §17935(b) and 45 CFR §164.502(b)(1).
 - I. Comply with requirements of satisfactory assurances under 45 CFR §164.512 relating to notice or qualified protective order in response to a third party's subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process for the disclosure of PHI, which Contractor shall promptly notify County upon Contractor's receipt of such request from a third party.
 - J. Not require an individual to provide patient authorization for use or disclosure of PHI as a condition for treatment, payment, enrollment in any health plan (including the health plan administered by County), or eligibility of benefits, unless otherwise excepted under 45 CFR §164.508(b)(4) and authorized in writing by County.
 - K. Use appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to prevent inappropriate use, disclosure, or access of PHI and/or ePHI.
 - L. Obtain and maintain knowledge of applicable laws and regulations related to HIPAA and HITECH, as may be amended from time to time.
 - M. Comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule that apply to the County to the extent Contractor is to carry out County's obligations under the Privacy Rule.
 - N. Take reasonable steps to cure or end any pattern of activity or practice of its subcontractor of which Contractor becomes aware that constitute a material breach or violation of the subcontractor's obligations under the business associate contract with Contractor, and if such steps are unsuccessful, Contractor agrees to terminate its contract with the subcontractor if feasible.
6. **Access to PHI, Amendment and Disclosure Accounting.** Contractor agrees to:
- A. **Access to PHI, including ePHI.** Provide access to PHI, including ePHI if maintained electronically, in a designated record set to County or an individual as directed by County, within five (5) business days of request from County, to satisfy the requirements of 45 CFR §164.524.

- B. **Amendment of PHI.** Make PHI available for amendment and incorporate amendments to PHI in a designated record set County directs or agrees to at the request of an individual, within fifteen (15) days of receiving a written request from County, in accordance with 45 CFR §164.526.
- C. **Accounting of disclosures of PHI and electronic health record.** Assist County to fulfill its obligations to provide accounting of disclosures of PHI under 45 CFR §164.528 and, where applicable, electronic health records under 42 USC §17935(c) if Contractor uses or maintains electronic health records. Contractor shall:
 - 1) Document such disclosures of PHI and/or electronic health records, and information related to such disclosures, as would be required for County to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI and/or electronic health record in accordance with 45 CFR §164.528.
 - 2) Within fifteen (15) days of receiving a written request from County, provide to County or any individual as directed by County information collected in accordance with this section to permit County to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI and/or electronic health record.
 - 3) Make available for County information required by this Section 6.C for six (6) years preceding the individual's request for accounting of disclosures of PHI, and for three (3) years preceding the individual's request for accounting of disclosures of electronic health record.
- 7. **Security of ePHI.** In the event County discloses ePHI to Contractor or Contractor needs to create, receive, maintain, transmit or have access to County ePHI, in accordance with 42 USC §17931 and 45 CFR §164.314(a)(2)(i), and §164.306, Contractor shall:
 - A. Comply with the applicable requirements of the Security Rule, and implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of ePHI that Contractor creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of County in accordance with 45 CFR §164.308, §164.310, and §164.312;
 - B. Comply with each of the requirements of 45 CFR §164.316 relating to the implementation of policies, procedures and documentation requirements with respect to ePHI;
 - C. Protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of ePHI;
 - D. Protect against any reasonably anticipated uses or disclosures of ePHI that are not permitted or required under the Privacy Rule;
 - E. Ensure compliance with the Security Rule by Contractor's workforce;
 - F. In accordance with 45 CFR §164.308(b)(2), require that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, transmit, or access ePHI on behalf of Contractor agree through contract to the same restrictions and requirements contained in this Addendum and comply with the applicable requirements of the Security Rule;
 - G. Report to County any security incident of which Contractor becomes aware, including breaches of unsecured PHI as required by 45 CFR §164.410; and,
 - H. Comply with any additional security requirements that are applicable to covered entities in Title 42 (Public Health and Welfare) of the United States Code, as may be amended from time to time, including but not limited to HITECH.

8. **Breach of Unsecured PHI.** In the case of breach of unsecured PHI, Contractor shall comply with the applicable provisions of 42 USC §17932 and 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart D, including but not limited to 45 CFR §164.410.

A. **Discovery and notification.** Following the discovery of a breach of unsecured PHI, Contractor shall notify County in writing of such breach without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 calendar days after discovery of a breach, except as provided in 45 CFR §164.412.

- 1) **Breaches treated as discovered.** A breach is treated as discovered by Contractor as of the first day on which such breach is known to Contractor or, by exercising reasonable diligence, would have been known to Contractor, which includes any person, other than the person committing the breach, who is an employee, officer, or other agent of Contractor (determined in accordance with the federal common law of agency).
- 2) **Content of notification.** The written notification to County relating to breach of unsecured PHI shall include, to the extent possible, the following information if known (or can be reasonably obtained) by Contractor:
 - a) The identification of each individual whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed by Contractor to have been accessed, acquired, used or disclosed during the breach;
 - b) A brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery of the breach, if known;
 - c) A description of the types of unsecured PHI involved in the breach, such as whether full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, diagnosis, disability code, or other types of information were involved;
 - d) Any steps individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach;
 - e) A brief description of what Contractor is doing to investigate the breach, to mitigate harm to individuals, and to protect against any further breaches; and,
 - f) Contact procedures for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, which shall include a toll-free telephone number, an e-mail address, web site, or postal address.

B. **Cooperation.** With respect to any breach of unsecured PHI reported by Contractor, Contractor shall cooperate with County and shall provide County with any information requested by County to enable County to fulfill in a timely manner its own reporting and notification obligations, including but not limited to providing notice to individuals, prominent media outlets and the Secretary in accordance with 42 USC §17932 and 45 CFR §164.404, §164.406 and §164.408.

C. **Breach log.** To the extent breach of unsecured PHI involves less than 500 individuals, Contractor shall maintain a log or other documentation of such breaches and provide such log or other documentation on an annual basis to County not later than fifteen (15) days after the end of each calendar year for submission to the Secretary.

D. **Delay of notification authorized by law enforcement.** If Contractor delays notification of breach of unsecured PHI pursuant to a law enforcement official's statement that required notification, notice or posting would impede a criminal investigation or cause damage to national security, Contractor shall maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate its compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR §164.412.

E. **Payment of costs.** With respect to any breach of unsecured PHI caused solely by the Contractor's failure to comply with one or more of its obligations under this Addendum and/or the provisions of HITECH, HIPAA, the Privacy Rule or the Security Rule, Contractor agrees to pay any and all costs associated with providing

all legally required notifications to individuals, media outlets, and the Secretary. This provision shall not be construed to limit or diminish Contractor's obligations to indemnify, defend and hold harmless County under Section 9 of this Addendum.

- F. **Documentation.** Pursuant to 45 CFR §164.414(b), in the event Contractor's use or disclosure of PHI and/or ePHI violates the Privacy Rule, Contractor shall maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate that all notifications were made by Contractor as required by 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart D, or that such use or disclosure did not constitute a breach, including Contractor's completed risk assessment and investigation documentation.
- G. **Additional State Reporting Requirements.** The parties agree that this Section 8.G applies only if and/or when County, in its capacity as a licensed clinic, health facility, home health agency, or hospice, is required to report unlawful or unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of medical information under the more stringent requirements of California Health & Safety Code §1280.15. For purposes of this Section 8.G, "unauthorized" has the meaning given such term in California Health & Safety Code §1280.15(j)(2).
- 1) Contractor agrees to assist County to fulfill its reporting obligations to affected patients and to the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") in a timely manner under the California Health & Safety Code §1280.15.
 - 2) Contractor agrees to report to County any unlawful or unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of patient's medical information without unreasonable delay and no later than two (2) business days after Contractor detects such incident. Contractor further agrees such report shall be made in writing, and shall include substantially the same types of information listed above in Section 8.A.2 (Content of Notification) as applicable to the unlawful or unauthorized access, use, or disclosure as defined above in this section, understanding and acknowledging that the term "breach" as used in Section 8.A.2 does not apply to California Health & Safety Code §1280.15.

9. **Hold Harmless/Indemnification.**

- A. Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless County, all Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments of County, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives from any liability whatsoever, based or asserted upon any services of Contractor, its officers, employees, subcontractors, agents or representatives arising out of or in any way relating to a breach of this Addendum, including but not limited to property damage, bodily injury, death, or any other element of any kind or nature whatsoever arising from the performance of Contractor, its officers, agents, employees, subcontractors, agents or representatives from this Addendum. Contractor shall defend, at its sole expense, all costs and fees, including but not limited to attorney fees, cost of investigation, defense and settlements or awards, of County, all Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments of County, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents or representatives in any claim or action based upon such alleged acts or omissions.
- B. With respect to any action or claim subject to indemnification herein by Contractor, Contractor shall, at their sole cost, have the right to use counsel of their choice, subject to the approval of County, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, and shall have the right to adjust, settle, or compromise any such action or claim without the prior consent of County; provided, however, that any such adjustment, settlement or compromise in no manner whatsoever limits or circumscribes Contractor's indemnification to County as set forth herein. Contractor's obligation to defend, indemnify and hold harmless County shall be subject to County having given Contractor written notice within a reasonable period of time of the claim or of the commencement of the related action, as the case may be, and information and reasonable assistance, at Contractor's expense, for the defense or settlement thereof. Contractor's obligation hereunder shall be satisfied when Contractor has provided to County the appropriate form of dismissal relieving County from any liability for the action or claim involved.
- C. The specified insurance limits required in the Underlying Agreement of this Addendum shall in no way limit or circumscribe Contractor's obligations to indemnify and hold harmless County herein from third party claims arising from issues of this Addendum.

- D. In the event there is conflict between this clause and California Civil Code §2782, this clause shall be interpreted to comply with Civil Code §2782. Such interpretation shall not relieve the Contractor from indemnifying County to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- E. In the event there is a conflict between this indemnification clause and an indemnification clause contained in the Underlying Agreement of this Addendum, this indemnification shall only apply to the subject issues included within this Addendum.
10. **Term.** This Addendum shall commence upon the Effective Date and shall terminate when all PHI and/or ePHI provided by County to Contractor, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of County, is destroyed or returned to County, or, if it is infeasible to return or destroy PHI and/ePHI, protections are extended to such information, in accordance with section 11.B of this Addendum.
11. **Termination.**
- A. **Termination for Breach of Contract.** A breach of any provision of this Addendum by either party shall constitute a material breach of the Underlying Agreement and will provide grounds for terminating this Addendum and the Underlying Agreement with or without an opportunity to cure the breach, notwithstanding any provision in the Underlying Agreement to the contrary. Either party, upon written notice to the other party describing the breach, may take any of the following actions:
- 1) Terminate the Underlying Agreement and this Addendum, effective immediately, if the other party breaches a material provision of this Addendum.
 - 2) Provide the other party with an opportunity to cure the alleged material breach and in the event the other party fails to cure the breach to the satisfaction of the non-breaching party in a timely manner, the non-breaching party has the right to immediately terminate the Underlying Agreement and this Addendum.
 - 3) If termination of the Underlying Agreement is not feasible, the breaching party, upon the request of the non-breaching party, shall implement, at its own expense, a plan to cure the breach and report regularly on its compliance with such plan to the non-breaching party.
- B. **Effect of Termination.**
- 1) Upon termination of this Addendum, for any reason, Contractor shall return or, if agreed to in writing by County, destroy, within thirteen months of termination, all PHI and/or ePHI received from County, or created or received by the Contractor on behalf of County, and, in the event of destruction, Contractor shall certify such destruction, in writing, to County. This provision shall apply to all PHI and/or ePHI which are in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Contractor. Contractor shall retain no copies of PHI and/or ePHI, except as provided below in paragraph (2) of this section.
 - 2) In the event that Contractor determines that returning or destroying the PHI and/or ePHI is not feasible, Contractor shall provide written notification to County of the conditions that make such return or destruction not feasible. Upon determination by Contractor that return or destruction of PHI and/or ePHI is not feasible, Contractor shall extend the protections of this Addendum to such PHI and/or ePHI and limit further uses and disclosures of such PHI and/or ePHI to those purposes which make the return or destruction not feasible, for so long as Contractor maintains such PHI and/or ePHI.
12. **General Provisions.**
- A. **Retention Period.** Whenever Contractor is required to document or maintain documentation pursuant to the terms of this Addendum, Contractor shall retain such documentation for 6 years from the date of its creation or as otherwise prescribed by law, whichever is later.
- B. **Amendment.** The parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Addendum from time to time as is necessary for County to comply with HITECH, the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, and HIPAA generally.
- C. **Survival.** The obligations of Contractor under Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11.B and 12.A of this Addendum shall survive the termination or expiration of this Addendum.

- D. **Regulatory and Statutory References.** A reference in this Addendum to a section in HITECH, HIPAA, the Privacy Rule and/or Security Rule means the section(s) as in effect or as amended.
- E. **Conflicts.** The provisions of this Addendum shall prevail over any provisions in the Underlying Agreement that conflict or appear inconsistent with any provision in this Addendum.
- F. **Interpretation of Addendum.**
- 1) This Addendum shall be construed to be part of the Underlying Agreement as one document. The purpose is to supplement the Underlying Agreement to include the requirements of the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, HIPAA and HITECH.
 - 2) Any ambiguity between this Addendum and the Underlying Agreement shall be resolved to permit County to comply with the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, HIPAA and HITECH generally.
- G. **Notices to County.** All notifications required to be given by Contractor to County pursuant to the terms of this Addendum shall be made in writing and delivered to the County both by fax and to both of the addresses listed below by either registered or certified mail return receipt requested or guaranteed overnight mail with tracing capability, or at such other address as County may hereafter designate. All notices to County provided by Contractor pursuant to this Section shall be deemed given or made when received by County.

County HIPAA Privacy Officer:	HIPAA Privacy Manager
County HIPAA Privacy Officer Address:	26520 Cactus Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA 92555
County HIPAA Privacy Officer Phone Number:	(951) 486-6471
County HIPAA Privacy Fax:	(951) 486-4475
County HIPAA Email Address:	r.compliance@ruhealth.org

ROUTE SLIP

From: Tony Curiel, Administrative Services Analyst

Date: November 19, 2021

Regarding: SSJ – NATIONAL RESEARCH CORPORATION dba NRC HEALTH, 2YR AGREEMENT

Name	Title	Reviewed
Elita Dao	Procurement Contract Specialist	Yes
Angela Simpkins	Chief Clinical Integration Officer	AS
Jennifer Cruikshank	Chief Executive Officer	JC

- Attached are the following and requires approval:
 - *Sole Source Justification (SSJ) – required for non-competitive Agreements in excess of \$5,000*
- Amount – \$251,476 and \$264,050 annually, total 2yrs - \$515,526
 - Period of Performance – April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2023
 - Service – The Quality Management (QM) Department at Riverside University Health System (RUHS) has engaged National Research Corporation dba NRC Health to collect patient satisfaction surveys through Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS).
 - Hospital benefits – NRC will perform patient satisfaction surveys, compile results, and submit data to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which requires all hospitals in the United States to collect patient satisfaction surveys through (HCAHPS). These services provide RUHS with data it needs to improve its services, meet regulatory requirements, and support its efforts to maximize performance-based revenue.
- Requested and Championed by – Quality Management Dept. (QM)
- Reviewed and pre-approved by –
 - Procurement Contract Specialist
- Anticipated BOS agenda date – December 14, 2021

The two (2) year Professional Service Agreement with NRC will require board approval with a total contract amount of \$515,526. Per Ordinance 459,

Section 6. BIDDING AND PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES. Except as specifically otherwise required by law, the Purchasing Agent may make any purchase of personal property or services, or perform any other act under this ordinance, without notice, advertisement or securing competitive bids up to an amount of \$50,000. Board of Supervisors approval is required for purchase of any item or service costing more than \$50,000 made without securing competitive bids. Purchase of any item costing over \$5,000 from other than the responsive and responsible lowest bidder must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Purchasing Agent shall use procurement methods and procedures as in his/her judgment to secure the lowest price while also obtaining the best value and quality for the County through the most responsive and responsible bidder.



Date: November 19, 2021

From: Jennifer Cruikshank, RUHS CEO

To: Board of Supervisors/Purchasing Agent

Via: Angela Simpkins, RUHS Medical Center Quality Management Department

Subject: Sole or Single Source Procurement; Request for Request for Patient Experience & Employee Culture Safety Survey Services

The below information is provided in support of my Department requesting approval for a sole or single source. *(Outside of a duly declared emergency, the time to develop a statement of work or specifications is not in itself justification for sole or single source.)*

1. **Supplier being requested:** National Research Corporation dba NRC Health
2. **Vendor ID:** 130903
3. ☐ **Single Source** ☒ **Sole Source**
4. **Have you previously requested and received approval for a sole or single source request for this vendor for your department?**
☒ **Yes** #18-159 ☐ **No**
- 4a. **Was the request approved for a different project?**
☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
5. **Supply/Service being requested:** Patient Experience & Employee Culture Safety Survey Services
6. **Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier.** NRC has developed its own "Connect Experience" and "Real Time Measure" Programs which allows for daily feedback of patient satisfaction, immediate service recovery, and the ability to implement change based on timely data for both inpatient and outpatient surveys. These programs allow for data capture at a depth and immediacy not offered by other providers.



7. Reasons why my department requires these unique features from the vendor and what benefit will accrue to the county:

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) require all hospitals in the United States to collect patient satisfaction surveys through Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). HCAHPS survey is the first national, standardized, publicly reported survey instrument and data collection of patients' perspectives of hospital care. This tool must be provided through an authorized third-party vendor who is responsible for submitting the HCAHPS results to CMS directly. NRC Health is an approved provider of HCAHPS survey results per the attached HCAHPS provider list dated July 28, 2021. National Research Corporation dba NRC Health performs all patient satisfaction surveys, compiles results and submits data directly to CMS.

Over the years, NRC has assisted RUHS MC meet the requirements of CMS and has achieved the following:

- 600 per year - Inpatient survey (HCAHPS Included) by mail for Case Management reporting
- 135,000 per year - Real Time Survey [Inpatient, Emergency, Outpatient (lab, testing, imaging, outpatient surgery)]
- 1,050 per year - Clinician and Group Survey (CG-CAHPS) by mail for Quality Improvement Program (QIP) reporting
- 169 Group Providers - Physician Real Time (medical practice)
- 3,000 per year Annual Employee Engagement / Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) survey

Patient satisfaction is a valuable and important representation of the quality of hospital care, along with favorable physician outcomes to treatment. These services provide the Riverside University Health System – Medical Center (RUHS MC) with data it needs to improve its services, meet regulatory requirements, and support its efforts to maximize performance-based revenue.

8. Period of Performance: 04/01/21 – 03/31/23
(2 years)

Is this an annually renewable contract? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Is this a fixed-term agreement: ☐ No ☒ Yes

9. Identify all costs for this requested purchase. In addition, please include any single or sole source amounts previously approved and related to this project and vendor in the section designated below for current and future fiscal years. You do not need to include previous fiscal year amounts. If approval is for multiple years, ongoing costs must be identified below. If annual increases apply to ongoing costs such as CPI or other contract increases, provide the estimated annual cost for each consecutive year. If the annual increase may exceed the Purchasing Agent's authority, Board approval must be obtained.



Quarterly Payments	FY21/22	FY22/23	Total
Quarterly Payment of \$62,869 April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	\$251,476	N/A	\$251,476
Quarterly Payment of \$66,012.50 April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	N/A	\$264,050	\$264,050
Total	\$251,476	\$264,050	\$515,526

10. Price Reasonableness:

NRC proposed a two-year agreement with the following yearly costs: Year 1 at \$251,476 and Year 2 at \$264,050 (Y2 fee includes a 5% CPI adjustment) not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$515,526 effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023. These costs are paid quarterly.

RUHS MC reached out to National Research Corporation to inquire if the pricing in the Professional Service Agreement is in line with the competitive pricing which NRC Health has in their General Services Administration (GSA) department federal contract, Agreement No. 47QRAA20D007P. NRC Health stated the pricing offered to the County of Riverside, RUHS MC is approximately a fifteen percent (15%) discount from their book price.

11. Projected Board of Supervisor Date (if applicable): December 14, 2021



Jennifer Cruikshank

Jennifer Cruikshank

Nov 23, 2021

Department Head Signature
(or designee)

Print Name

Date

The section below is to be completed by the Purchasing Agent or designee.

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove

Condition/s:

Approved - After the fact request for ratification

Not to exceed:

☐ One-time \$ _____

☒ Annual Amount \$ _____ / per fiscal year through _____ (date)

(If Annual Amount Varies each FY)

FY 21/22 : \$ 251,476

FY 22/23 : \$ 264,050

FY _____ : \$ _____

FY _____ : \$ _____

FY _____ : \$ _____

Suzanna Hinckley, Assistant Director

21-053

Purchasing Agent

Date

Approval Number
(Reference on Purchasing Documents)