Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.

   VMS Family Counseling Services offers the following therapy services: Individual; Family/Couple; Group; and Training Seminars.

2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

   VMS Family Counseling Services, Professional Corporation
   Victoria Sanders, LMFT 52610
   Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist CEO
   2350 W. Shaw Ave, Suite 116
   Fresno, CA 93711
   (559) 573-4194

3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.

   The agreement is for five consecutive years with an option for termination in the Service Agreement. The total cost of the agreement is for $785,000. The annual maximum for each year will be as follows: Year 1-2 - $144,000, Year 3-4 - $157,000, and Year 5 - $183,000.

4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.

   The Fresno County Sheriff's Office has had a beneficial professional partnership since 2015. We have an established relationship with Victoria Sanders, and are confident that her practice understands the unique stressors impacting law enforcement members and their families. This partnership requires a high degree of trust since billing is 100% confidential to protect the identity of our employees. After 10 years of partnership, our department has established the necessary trust required with Victoria Sanders - both administratively and clinically. Additionally, we want to continue the partnership with this vendor for the continuity of care of our employees.

5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.

   - ☐ In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
   - ☐ When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
   - ☐ When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or $5,000 whichever is more.
   - ☐ When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
   - ☐ When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
   - ☒ When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.

6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.

   Law enforcement professionals experience highly stressful and traumatic incidents on a regular basis. These incidents have been known to have a negative impact on a person's mental health, physical health, and family life. Over time, these issues have an extremely devestating compound effect on our employees. Whenever possible, we seek to provide our employees with highly trained professionals and effective resources to aid them in fostering healthy coping mechanisms, discovering safe outlets for decompression, and maintaining skills to combat negative stressors as they arise in the future. Our experience with VMS has been positive in this regard. Our employees' consistent use of this contract with VMS is proof of its necessity to our organization.

7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.

   We are committed to providing our employees with a local vendor that has the ability to meet in-person (not long distance over Zoom only). Two other separate local vendors have practices that specialize in law enforcement stressors, Dr. Erene Soliman and Dr. Jana Price-Sharps, however, both are contracted vendors for the County's pre-employment and compulsory psychological screening contract. We feel it would be a conflict of interest to use these vendors for dual purpose for our employee assistance program when they are separately evaluating our employees for hire and/or compulsory matters. Other large multi-staff clinics, such as the Resiliency Center, do not specialize in the law enforcement issues specific to our industry. The Sheriff's Office wants to keep the care with current patients consistent from VMS as they understand the unique stressors associated with law enforcement. The Sheriff's Office has no desire to transfer our employees' care to another vendor that does not

specialize in law enforcement or have an established relationship with them.

Christine.Borba 5/30/2025 10:24:47 AM | Sheriff's HR Manager | [⌫ Sign] Double click!

Requested By: | Title

I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

Brandon.Pursell 5/30/2025 2:38:45 PM [⌫ Sign] Double click!

Department Head Signature

rblackburn 5/30/2025 4:03:51 PM [⌫ Sign] Double click!

Purchasing Manager Signature