

PARAMOUNT HEALTH DATA PROJECT

October 6, 2023

Teresa Deaton-Reese, CPPB, CPPO
Procurement Consultant
Indiana Department of Administration Procurement Division
402 W. Washington St., Room W468
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Deaton-Reese,

This letter indicates the intent of the Paramount Health Data Project to submit a response to Request for Proposal 24-76492 on behalf of the Family and Social Service Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction for School Based Mental Health Provider Endorsement. Paramount Health Data Project is a registered non-profit in the state of Indiana and is registered with the Indiana Secretary of State.

The goal of this proposal is to create a new and equitable entry point into mental health profession, while providing schools with much needed mental health professionals. This project will provide DMHA with a research-based program for a School Based Mental Health Provider Endorsement that will help to address the shortage of mental health professionals in K-12 schools. Specifically, Paramount Health Data Project (PHDP) will design and implement a course of research that will include qualitative and quantitative data collected from community stakeholders in the K-12 school community, the mental health community and the mental health professionals who work at the intersection of mental health and schools. Using the data gathered from this research, a plan of study for School Based Mental Health Providers will be designed. This plan of study will include multiple entry points into a school based mental health career, with a path for licensed mental health providers to obtain expertise in research-based best practices for mental health in schools, a path for school-based professionals to increase their knowledge and skills to provide mental health services to students, and a path for current students of community colleges and 4-year universities to acquire skills and knowledge of best-practices to address mental health in schools through an apprenticeship model. These multiple pathways will be designed to provide entry into the mental health profession to traditionally underrepresented communities. In addition to the plan of study and multiple paths for entry into school based mental health services, the proposal will include all materials participants may need to complete the program, including course syllabi, reference materials, online resources, study materials and exams. Using an online database such as Salesforce, an electronic tracking system will be developed that will monitor the status of those individuals who are completing steps to obtain the endorsement, as well as continued monitoring of active status, including continuing education to renew the endorsement. Upon completion of the materials for the school based mental health provider endorsement, PHDP will collaborate and

build relationships with post-secondary education institutions that offer Mental Health/Behavioral Health coursework credits, CMHCs and licensing institutions (IPLA, IDOE) that will result in the School Based Mental Health Provider Endorsement training that is developed to qualify for CEUs or other qualifying endorsements.

The CEO of Paramount Health Data Project, Dr. Addie Angelov, and the Director of Research, Dr. Mary Jo Rattermann, will both supervise and participate in the work presented in this proposal. Drs. Angelov and Rattermann are uniquely qualified to provide DMHA with a fully realized, fully researched, School Based Mental Health Provider Endorsement. Dr. Angelov has designed and implemented an analogous program in special education in the SpedPrep program currently being offered by Marian University, and is a national expert in special education. Dr. Rattermann completed the Project AWARE Environmental Scan of mental health professionals, which included a review of current licensure practices for mental health professionals, a statewide survey of mental health professionals, and an analysis of the workforce pipeline of mental health professionals in Indiana. This work is directly relevant to the current proposal for a School Based Mental Health Professional Endorsement.

Equally important to the success of this program is the team of professionals assembled to collaborate on the Plan of Study, the development of content modules, the development of recruitment materials and the development of relationships with relevant stakeholders. Dr. Kevin Berkopes has successfully developed an alternative route to licensure for math teachers using an apprenticeship model that is recognized by the Indiana licensure board, while Dr. Tamika Zapolski and Ms. Angel Ash are both experienced mental health professionals with expert knowledge in DEI and mental health equity. Their expertise in designing the plan of study and the content of the program will ensure that candidates who complete this endorsement will come from underrepresented communities across the state, and that they will have the skills needed to provide mental health supports to all students.

Principal Contact for this proposal is:

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Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy Reddicks", written in a cursive style.

Tommy Reddicks, President
Paramount Health Data Project