The Community Development Department and Largo Police Department are requesting approval of the Subrecipient Public Services Agreement for Directions for Mental Health, Inc., d/b/a Directions for Living for funding a full-time Behavioral Health Navigator position.

The new Behavioral Health Navigator will be paired with a Largo Police Officer on a full-time basis to implement the City’s new Enriching Lives through Mental Health Services (ELMS) Program. Similar to the Police Department’s Elderly Services Program, the ELMS program will proactively engage with high risk residents of the community who suffer from severe mental illness and connect them with services they may need, such as psychological testing, therapy, case management, and Social Security Disability Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) benefits.

The cost for the Behavioral Health Navigator is shared between the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and General Fund from the Police Department budget. The total project budget also includes $3,000 to be paid by Directions for Living. The agreement covers a two-year period, with a nonappropriation clause included. The amount reflected in this memo is for one year of funding. The second year amount funded by the City is anticipated to be the same as in the first year. The two-year period will provide an opportunity for the program to get operational and provide a longer time in which to measure results.

The Community Development Advisory Board recommended funding this project at its March 26, 2018 meeting. The City Commission discussed this program at the June 12, 2018 Work Session and approved funding this project as part of the FY 2018-2019 CDBG Action Plan by Resolution No. 2217 on July 3, 2018.

A copy of the agreement has been sent to the City Commission electronically, and posted to the website.