

MEETING DATE: May 26, 2026

STAFF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Ruby Richards, Deputy Director

DESCRIPTION: Children’s Hospital Colorado Public Contract for Services regarding the Development of a Mental Health Emergency Unit at Highlands Ranch South Campus for \$3,400,000.00

SUMMARY: In October 2025, the Douglas County Opioid Council approved a drawdown of \$3.4 million for the expansion of crisis stabilization services for children and youth. Following this approval, the County issued a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) 001-26, Douglas County Opioid Council (DCOC) Crisis Stabilization Services. DCOC voting members reviewed submitted proposals and selected Children’s Hospital of Colorado (CHOC).

The contract Scope of Services outlines CHOC’s commitment to engaging qualified professionals for architectural, engineering, construction and related work needed to renovate space at the CHOC South Campus to house a Mental Health Emergency Unit (MHEU). The project expands the existing Emergency Department to create a psych-safer (a specialized hospital or medical room designed to minimize risks for psychiatric or behavior health patients), five room suite (approx. 2,200 sq. ft.) built for crisis screening, assessment, brief interventions, and up to 72-hour observation level of care, enabling stabilization close to home for Douglas County children and teens residents and other patients.

The addition of a MHEU to the South Campus will increase local access to pediatric crisis services and reduce unnecessary out of county transfers. Additionally, creating psych-safer spaces and workflows will improve safety, and experience, for all children and youth presenting with mental health needs. Douglas County and CHOC furthermore commit to a coordinated community-based continuum of care to support children, youth and families after they discharge from the MHEU.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the contract with Children’s Hospital of Colorado for the Development of a Mental Health Emergency Unit at Highlands Ranch South

Campus.

REVIEW:

Ruby Richards	Approve	5/12/2026
Jeff Garcia	Escalated	5/18/2026
Amy Williams	Escalated	5/19/2026
Christy Gordon	Approve	5/20/2026
Christie Guthrie	Approve	5/20/2026
Doug DeBord	Approve	5/20/2026

ATTACHMENTS:

Children's PCS Opioid Funds- Children's Hospital of Colorado