



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

JIM SKINNER, SHERIFF

September 19, 2024

Hon. Chris Hill, County Judge
Hon. Susan Fletcher, Commissioner
Hon. Cheryl Williams, Commissioner
Hon. Darrell Hale, Commissioner
Hon. Duncan Webb, Commissioner
Collin County Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, TX 75071

Re: Health Services Agreement – Support for Staff in Phase 1 Book-In Facility and
New Orientation Housing Cluster

Dear Judge Hill and Commissioners Fletcher, Williams, Hale, and Webb:

By a July 17, 2024 letter, I supported Wellpath's request for a staffing increase in the existing county jail facilities for the next contract year. Specifically, Wellpath asks for:

- an additional 4.20 FTE (168 hours) of Registered Nurse (Charge, Days) and
- an additional 4.20 FTE (168 hours) of Registered Nurse (Charge, Nights).

I supported this request because of the growth of the medical workload in the county jail's existing facilities. Although Purchasing should be able to confirm, I believe that the Wellpath's staffing for FY2024 was based on an average daily population (ADP) of 991 (adult and juvenile detention facilities), and the actual ADP has been running closer to 1,250. A day or two before I wrote in July, for example, adult detention's population alone was 1,281, with 132 in minimum security and 81 housed in other jails. This morning, the adult facility's population was 1,277, with 115 in minimum security and 115 housed in other jails. Moreover, it continues to be true that a greater percentage of persons coming to the county jail tend to be sick and that those persons tend to be more sick than in past years.

In addition, Wellpath asks the County to add this staff to the new phase 1 book-in area and the new 180-bed orientation-housing cluster:

<u>Position</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Nurse Practitioner/PA	4.20	168
Registered Nurse (MAT)	0.90	36
Licensed Vocational Nurse	12.60	504

Medical Records Clerk	1.00	40
RN (Minimum Security)	4.20	168
LVN (Minimum Security)	-4.20	-168

In short, by adding 180 new beds, the County is increasing the adult detention facility's capacity from 1,298 to 1,478 beds. This will increase the medical workload.

Moreover, in recent years, local police departments have tempered arrests in light of pandemic restrictions, which are now easing, and common knowledge that the county jail was at capacity. With the new book-in facility and the new 180-bed orientation cluster opening, however, I expect that local agencies will arrest more people and bring more to the county jail. The County will need substantial medical staff to screen for persons who may be unfit for confinement, care for persons suffering from mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, identify and assess suicidal persons, and manage persons suffering from substance withdrawal. As I mentioned in my July 17 letter, the medical staff reports that they wrote approximately 34,000 prescriptions for detainees in 2021 and, at current 2024 rates, they are on pace to write 54,000 prescriptions by year's end. This is a 60% increase in four years.

In sum, I recommend that the County take Wellpath's recommendations, and I support its request for additional nurses in the county jail's existing facilities and for additional medical staff of various types in the new book-in area and new orientation-housing cluster. As always, I appreciate your continued commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Jim Skinner