

**Review of Responsive Bids to Request For Proposal and Award of Peer Assistance Program Services Contract**

**Summary of Request:** Award a Peer Assistance Program Services Contract.

**Background:**

On July 23, 2015, the Board authorized the Executive Director to extend the current contract with the Texas Nurses Foundation (TNF) to provide peer assistance services through the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) for a period of up to 120 days through a wind down provision in the contract. As a result, the Executive Director entered into an agreement with TNF/TPAPN to extend the contract until November 20, 2015, at which time the contract for peer assistance services will expire.

On July 24, 2015, Staff posted Request for Proposal No. 507-16-001 (RFP). This solicitation requested bids from interested parties to provide peer assistance services to registered and vocational nurses with substance use disorders and mental disorders.

On August 13, 2015, Staff received the only bid to the RFP from TNF/TPAPN. The bid was responsive to all of the requirements listed in the RFP. Further, TNF/TPAPN has an established network to meet the needs of nurses under Board order or referral.

The Board is authorized to award a contract to TNF/TPAPN, as the sole bidder to the RFP. Attached as Attachment "A" is a proposed contract between the Board and TNF/TPAPN for the provision of peer assistance services. This contract is similar to the current contract between the Board and TNF/TPAPN. However, the proposed contract includes additional provisions related to Board oversight and expands the ability of the Board to audit TPAPN to ensure compliance with the contract and the furtherance of the Board's mission to protect public safety.

**Staff Recommendation:** Move to authorize the Executive Director to enter into the contract attached as Attachment "A" with the TNF/TPAPN to provide peer assistance services as specified in the RFP.