



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER _____

PAGE 1 OF 7

DATE: 10/1/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY AND TEXAS OFFENDERS REENTRY
INITIATIVE FOR THE PROVISION OF REENTRY SERVICES TO
TARRANT COUNTY INMATES**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tarrant County and Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI) for the provision of reentry services to Tarrant County Inmates

BACKGROUND

TORI offers reentry services to Tarrant County inmates, supporting potential employment and educational opportunities, and promoting positive outcomes for individuals with a criminal justice background to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

TORI will provide educational services on employment and educational opportunities, employment coaching and digital literacy to candidates referred by the Sheriff's Office who are currently incarcerated and within two (2) years of release. TORI will also provide instruction and Texas Commission on Jail Standards required services to the Sheriff's Office eligible inmates along with instruction and materials necessary for the inmates to successfully complete instruction.

With approval, TORI will provide rehabilitative services as mentioned above to inmates housed in Tarrant County's Jail, thereby supporting a path to job opportunities and successful reintegration upon release.

The term of this MOU is one (1) year from the date signed. This MOU shall be effective upon signature and reviewed annually.

This MOU has been approved as to form by the Criminal District Attorney's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

SUBMITTED BY	Sheriff	PREPARED BY:	Jessica Redding
		APPROVED BY:	Jessica Redding

Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made by and between Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI) and Tarrant County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Office), but for the purpose of this MOU, each party may be referred to as a "Party" and collectively referred to as "Parties."

Purpose

This MOU defines the roles and responsibilities, access, performance measurement and programming of the collaborative relationship between Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative and the Sheriff's Office that will support potential employment and educational opportunities and positive outcomes for individuals with a criminal justice background to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Mission

TORI in partnership with Tarrant County Sheriff's Programs Division share the mission to provide rehabilitative services to inmates housed in Tarrant County's Jail, thereby supporting a path to job opportunities and successful reintegration upon release.

Good Faith Agreement

The Parties acknowledge that this is not a legally binding contract. However, this is a good faith agreement, whereas both Parties agree to work together to the best of their ability.

Access:

1. The Sheriff's Office will provide TORI with access to the detention facilities and furniture required to hold classes along with current administrative personnel to oversee the program along with identifying eligible inmates.

Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Tarrant County shall render and provide the following services:
 - a. Work with TORI's contact person to coordinate the operational details for provision of the program, including class schedules, inmate rosters, instructor clearances, and timely communication of pertinent Tarrant County Sheriff's Department policies and regulations;
 - b. Identify eligible inmates to participate in TORI's program;
 - c. Provide TORI with a copy of interested applicants for prescreening and enrollment;
 - d. Assist in outreach of inmates for participation in the TORI program;
 - e. Retain the right to deny institution access at any time to any instructor or representative of TORI;
2. TORI shall also render and provide the following services that include:
 - a. Engage Inmate Program staff to encourage participation in all required program activities, and
 - b. Offer services to assist with breaking down personal barriers that hinder employment;
 - c. Provide recovery, healing and restoration opportunities;
 - d. To provide advocacy and mentorship;
 - e. Offer community support and spiritual enrichment.

Performance Measures:

1. TORI will be responsible for gathering data, screening, assessing and tracking the employment and educational outcomes of each candidate referred by the Sheriff's office from enrollment to graduation from the TORI Program and entering the data into the TORI ShareTAAG case and data management system.

Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

2. Both parties will comply with all applicable privacy laws, regulations, and guidelines.
3. TORI will also track the disposition of the qualified candidates received from the Sheriff's Office from enrollment in the TORI Program through the date of hire or the date of enrollment into an educational program.

Programming:

1. TORI will provide evidence-based programming and interventions for the qualified candidates referred from the Sheriff's Office.
2. TORI will provide educational services on employment and educational opportunities, employment coaching and digital literacy to candidates referred by the Sheriff's Office who are currently incarcerated and within 2 years of release.
3. TORI will provide instruction and Texas Commission on Jail Standards required rehabilitation services to the Sheriff's Office eligible inmates along with instruction and materials necessary for the inmate to successfully complete instruction.

No Transfer of Funds

Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either Party to the transfer of funds. Any act involving reimbursement or contribution of funds will need to be outlined in a separate agreement.

Term

1. Each Party will work collaboratively together to fulfill the terms of this MOU and the success of the MOU.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this MOU, the parties agree and understand that Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn, his successors in office, or his designees, may in their sole

Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

discretion deny entry into the jail at any time to any agent of TORI. Either organization may terminate its participation with this MOU upon 60 days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective upon signature and reviewed annually.

Party: Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (A Program of T.D. Jakes Foundation)

Address: 5500 Preston Rd., Suite 250, Tarrant, TX 75205

Email: rspencer@tdjfoundation.org

Signed By:

Name: Renae Spencer

Title: Interim Executive Director

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Party: Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Address: 200 Taylor St., Fort Worth, TX 76196

Signed By:

Name: Bill E. Waybourn

Title: Sheriff

Signature:  Date: 9-9-24

Party: Tarrant County

Address: 200 Taylor St., Fort Worth, TX 76196

Signed By:

Name: Tim O'Hare

Title: County Judge

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Memorandum of Understanding
Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS

Tim O'Hare
County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

8-23-24



Criminal District Attorney's Office*

*By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

CO# 144032

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SUBMITTED BY	Sheriff	PREPARED BY:	Jessica Redding
		APPROVED BY:	Jessica Redding

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Address: 5500 Preston Rd., Suite 250, Tarrant, TX 75205

Email: rspencer@tdjfoundation.org

Signed By:

Name: Renae Spencer

Title: Interim Executive Director

Signature: _____ Date: _____


Party: Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Address: 200 Taylor St., Fort Worth, TX 76196

Signed By:

Name: Bill E. Waybourn

Title: Sheriff

Signature:  ate: 9-9-24

Party: Tarrant County

Address: 200 Taylor St., Fort Worth, TX 76196

Signed By:

Name: Tim O'Hare

Title: County Judge

Signature:  Date: 10/1/2024

Memorandum of Understanding
Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative & Tarrant County Sheriff's Department

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this 18th day of October, 2024.

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS,



Tim O'Hare
County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

8-23-24



Criminal District Attorney's Office*

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