

RFP Questions:

1. Please clarify the collateral support that a vendor can receive if a probationer is disruptive to our Residential Community. What are the limits regarding inappropriate participation in the residential milieu that a program will be asked to accommodate?

All referred individuals under supervision are required to follow the program rules. If rules are not being followed, staff should immediately contact the supervising officer of any noncompliance and officers will assist in addressing the noncompliant behavior. Should all attempts at bringing individuals into compliance prove unsuccessful, federal clients should be discharged according to program rules.

2. Our Program is in a mixed-use neighborhood. We do not accept anyone with sex offense or arson charges in order to protect our standing in the community. We do not have security staff. Will our protection needs as an agency and the protection needs of our staff and client community be considered when you refer to us. (E.g. rival gang members, existing enrollee, federal probation or not, feuds with proposed referral. How will the balance between organizational needs and client referral needs be negotiated or will they be considered?

All referred individuals under supervision are required to follow the program rules. We understand there are exclusions for sex offenders and those who have arson charges. Staff must take the proper precautions if they feel threatened or if another resident is threatened. If there is a need for protection from a resident, take the same precautions you would with any other client.

3. We are obligated under law to protect the confidentiality and Privacy of all our clients, including your referrals. Is there established protocol in writing for officers coming into the program to meet with their probationers? What are the expectations of your officers?

We do not intend to disrupt the daily schedule of the residents in the program, however there is not a protocol in writing. Officers contact counselors or staff of the residential program to schedule visits to the program. Officers are required to maintain community contact with the person under supervision and staff while they are in treatment. Contact will occur at the program or in the community.

4. Bridgemark is non-medical. We do not have psychologists or psychiatrists or nurses on staff. We do not administer psychotropic or any other medications. We do monitor that clients take their medications. We do not supply medications. Does that make us ineligible to apply? Page C-10 of 23 states that 6001 and 6002 require those line items.

We do not require a psychiatrist or prescribing professional on staff. Many of our clients are taking prescribed medication or are in a medically assisted treatment program. The residential facility is not required to supply medication.

5. 6001 is listed as Short term Residential for Co- Occurring Disorders on Page B-2 of 3 but then labeled as Mental Health Specific Residential Placement on page C 10 of 23. Is it expected that the Residential Program will accept primary mental health referrals exclusive of any substance abuse disorders.

No, the 6001 is for those who have co-occurring disorders and in need of mental health counseling. It is not for psychiatric care. If a client is in need of a higher level of care, they can be referred to the stabilization unit or sent to the emergency room.

6. Does the residential program have the discretion to conduct urine screens on demand? Will those urine screen results be sent to the Residential program or to the probation officer? Do we use your lab or ours? If the screens get sent to Probation will Bridgemark receive a copy? How long will it take to receive the results. What are the rules regarding BAL readings? If a client refuses or fails to comply with a BAL test or a urine screen will they be allowed to remain in the program.

Urine screens can be taken at any time, by the residential program using your lab for all residents. In addition, we can request urine screens be taken with our supplies as needed. We will notify the program of the results in these instances. The turn around time differs but is typically within a week. All clients can be tested for BAL (Blood Alcohol Levels) per the policy of the program using an approved breathalyzer device. All drug screens and BAL tests should be shared between the supervising probation officer and treatment provider.

7. Please clarify what “**Note: regarding pretrial services defendants :**” means. What is considered questions that compel the defendant to make incriminating statements?

Pretrial Services defendants are individuals who are on bail, and are presumed innocent. They have not been convicted and they should not make statements about their alleged offenses or indicating their guilty to staff or residents.

8. Page C-10 of 23 states that a minimum of 6 hours of structured programmatic activities per weekday shall be provided by the vendor. Many members of our Residential community begin to work after 30 days if they have accomplished treatment stage goals. Will your referrals expect to work and will they be allowed to.

Yes, if they reach a phase in the program where they are stable and able to work and fulfill their treatment requirements, this should be discussed with the supervising probation officer. They are still required to participate in three hours of programmatic activities per day including, AA/NA, individual sessions, group sessions and the other three hours can be employment, chores, etc.

9. Page c-8 of 23 # 3 states that the vendor will supply bed linens and towels which are at a minimum exchanged or washed weekly. Our Residential clients wash their linens. Will it be expected that your referrals will have their linens washed by Bridgemark?

Residents can wash their own linens as long as there is a facility to wash them at no cost and they are provided laundry detergent.

10. Page C-9 please clarify what is considered “ reasonable food selections”

All residents should be given a healthy balanced meal. A registered dietitian or physician needs to approve the menus and they must comply with federal, state, and local health laws, codes and regulations.