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CON0000301 – Program Components and Narrative – FY `17



Introduction to AMIkids Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Program

AMIkids is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping troubled youth develop into responsible and productive citizens. AMIkids offers a full range of programs for at-risk youth and their families in Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

In 1986 AMIkids Rio Grande Valley *f/k/a* Rio Grande Marine Institute (RGMI), located in Los Fresnos, Texas, became a program of AMIkids. AMIkids RGV is a non-profit organization dedicated to the positive redirection of juvenile offenders through constructive discipline and working in partnership with families, the community, and state government. RGV offers a comprehensive and challenging environment that helps enhance educational gains, reinforce pro-social behaviors, and stress personal accountability in the youth.

By submission of this Statement of Work (SOW), AMIkids is proposing the continued operation of AMIkids Rio Grande Valley and in order to continue the positive, long-term direction and win-win relationship with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD).

AMIkids programs have received numerous state awards, national recognition, and positive media attention. AMIkids Rio Grande Valley has been recognized as Texas Juvenile Justice Provider of the Year for Fiscal Year 2011 and 2014. AMIkids RGV has created partnerships with organizations in our local communities. Our priority is to give back to our communities through meaningful services to teach our students the importance of giving their time and efforts to help others.

In our most recent data, Calendar Year 2013, AMIkids RGV had a recidivism rate of 17%.

At AMIkids RGV, we place a priority on helping our students transform their lives and become contributing tax-paying citizens. Whether it is part-time employment when they return to public school or full time employment after securing a diploma or GED, we know that equipping our students for real-world employment will play a large role in their future success.

Students at RGV receive educational services from the Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District. Students are provided opportunities to earn academic credits; GED's and distance learning college level courses for students who qualify. AMIkids RGV offers American Welding Society (AWS), a national recognized Welding certification curriculum to all its students. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 36 AWS D1.1 Structural Steel welding certifications in Metal Inert Gas (MIG) and ARC Welding from Certified Welding Instructor on campus. Students receive instructions and trainings on the Oxy-Fuel Cutting System, Plasma Cutter and Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG). Students also earn ServSafe food handler and first aid CPR Certificates from trained instructors during their stay at AMIkids RGV.

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Staff Training consists of one hundred twenty (120) hours within twelve months for all new hires and fifty (50) hours of annual training for all staff. All training is provided by certified / qualified trainers. The training includes, American Red Cross CPR and First Aid, Suicide Prevention, Basic Youth Rights and Preventing Sexual Misconduct and Inappropriate Relations, **(TJJD can assist with trainings in this area upon request). See Attached Written Notification**

Certified restraint trainings will be provided to all AMIKids RGV staff within sixty (60) days, prior to sole supervision of youths. AMIKids RGV staff is trained in CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention by certified trainer. *See Attached Certification on staff training and Instructors Certification.*

3. MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

As indicated in the SOW outline, AMIKids Rio Grande Valley will implement and maintain an appropriate system for providing health care services to all TJJD youth.

AMIKids RGV has approved systems that document all youth health care services. The tracking system consists of youth intake, medical history provided by TJJD, current medical doctor visits and past history. The primary person responsible for managing the tracking system is the program nurse.

Part of the intake process at AMIKids RGV is to assess the medical needs of all youths accepted into the program. The program nurse will ensure that all youth have an updated physical evaluation and keep their medical records on file. Any youth requiring additional medical attention will be referred to the appropriate medical authority. Medical emergencies will be treated at the local hospital through emergency services. When possible, Medicaid or private insurance will be assessed to cover medical expenses.

AMIKids RGV will provide 24 hour supervision for youths in hospital in accordance to the program level of restriction and within TX DFPS guidelines.

AMIKids RGV will provide an onsite nurse a minimum of twenty (20) hours a week and on call twenty four (24) hours per day.

AMIKids RGV will provide appropriate transportation for all health care services.

Access to an on-call physician to consult and determine appropriate treatment after hours is provided through AMIKids RGV listings of primary physician.

AMIKids RGV is financially responsible for all over-the-counter drugs, (*aspirin, antibiotic ointment, etc.*) and medical supplies, (*band aids, gauze, adhesive tape, etc.*)

Youth eighteen (18) years of age or younger, and are eligible, will be enrolled into the Medicaid program within twenty four (24) hours on weekdays and seventy two (72) hours on weekends of arriving at program. The enrollment process will ensure each eligible youth receives a Medicaid card and services. This process is managed by the program nurse. The program's nurse will complete and submit the

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assessed and services will be provided based on individual risk factors, while enhancing the individual protective factors.

AMIKids RGV is committed to serving juvenile offenders through the use of multimodal interventions and program components based on a process of **Individualized Service Planning (ISP)**. The process of service planning creates a collaborative environment where program staff work seamlessly with stakeholders including the resident and family in developing goals and objectives that will drive services. This process targets the known predictors of crime and recidivism providing gender responsive services that are matched to each individual offender.

Clearly, by moving toward a theory of integration, AMIKids RGV is positioned to optimize its chances for successfully intervening with troubled juveniles. The unification of the **AMIKids Way** with treatment, education, and behavior modification exemplifies this theory of integration and the recommendations of research enabling us to improve the number and quality of the services we provide. From the literature, it is clear that our programs are practical in nature and our programming reflects the needs of our students. Our services are not limited to one domain; rather, we address all needs of juveniles by unifying all components of service.

As indicated previously, the synergistic connection among behavior modification, treatment, education, and the **AMIKids Way** is collectively referred to by AMIKids as the **AMIKids Personal Growth Model (APGM): A Unified Approach to Behavior Modification, Education and Treatment**; and is crucial to the success of AMIKids programs. To address the skill deficit areas identified by research within a “unified approach”, AMIKids staff is committed to framing its work on the AMIKids Way, its values, culture, and activities, together with behavior modification, treatment, and education. The APGM© serves as the foundation of AMIKids’ service philosophy and works seamlessly within the framework of gender responsive programming.

The strength and effectiveness of the AMIKids organizational culture rests on its values, guiding principles, and basic program activities, as well as on the dynamic staff employed to provide services. The thirteen (13) **fundamental values** of AMIKids are: **Kids First, Creativity, Dedication, Diversity, Enthusiasm, Excellence, Family, Goal orientation, Honesty, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, and Safety**. In order for these values to succeed within the program setting, the AMIKids culture incorporates into each program six (6) **guiding principles**: bonding, family atmosphere, non-prison environment, positive learning environment, gender responsiveness, and cultural relevancy. These principles are, in turn, implemented through a host of activities that revolve around eight (8) **basic program activities**: education, challenge experiences, behavior modification, reality therapy, strength-based case treatment, family partnerships, life management instruction, and community service. The above values, principles, and activities comprise the center stone of AMIKids’ unified approach to service planning which utilizes three major components through which services are provided: treatment, education, and behavior modification.

In addition to the AMIKids Way, AMIKids RGV will adhere to the principles of “What Works” in juvenile justice. These principles include the following:

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program rules and visitation policies will be shared. Families will also be encouraged to provide input and give information related to each youth's treatment goals/objectives. Individual Service Plans will be sent to families for review and input. Families will also be encouraged to assist with development of transition plans for youth upon return to the community.

AMIKids RGV recognizes the value and importance of working with each youth's family while youth are in the program. AMIKids RGV encourages family members, specifically parents and grandparents, to visit residents and their children as much as possible. Family visitations are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday at AMIKids RGV. As the students progress in their treatment, arrangements can be made for off-site visits. For on-site visits, visitors must adhere to the program's visitation guidelines.

Initially, residents set family goals and objectives as part of their Individual Service Plans. These goals and objectives are centered on identifying family issues and implementing creative ways to address those issues. Families are involved in the development and review of goals via conference call or in person. Families are kept informed about their child's progress on a regular basis. In fact, residents are permitted to write letters and call their families regularly.

Written plans for direct, continuous observation of youth that present a moderate risk of suicide or physical injury will be provided. Currently, youth who present a moderate risk of suicide or physical injury will be placed on "suicide alerts" and are assessed by a mental health authority. The program staff will notify the mental health authority by phone. AMIKids RGV has a twenty-four (24) hour contact number for these types of emergencies. During this time, the youth will be placed on continuous visual supervision. The program staff will notify the TJJD Case Management Specialist (CMS) within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence. AMIKids RGV policy and procedure in this area shall comply with the TJJD Residential Standards.

Additional Services

AMIKids RGV will provide a moderate intensity Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Program. Treatment will be provided within a DSHS – license facility or by a License Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) under contract.

AMIKids RGV will provide Aggression Replacement Training (ART). Treatment will be provided by certified trained individuals in ART.

5. TARGET POPULATION

The target population of AMIKids RGV is male youth, ages fifteen (15) through seventeen (17). Additional youth will be accepted into the program on a case-by-case basis include: 1) Youth with non-severe yet stabilized medical problems, and 2) youth on psychotropic medications who have demonstrated a pattern of stabilized behavior. No youth will be denied admission to the program due to race, national origin, or religious preference.

6. DAILY LIVING SERVICES

AMIKids RGV orientation provides and documents both youth and parent to program services. Initially a case manager calls youth's parents or legal guardian to discuss the program. The next step is to begin the chronological record keeping. For example, welcome letters and media release forms are sent to youth's legal guardian.

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AMIKids observe an instructional school day and an annual school calendar consistent with the annual school calendar and daily school schedule of LFCISD. AMIKids follow the instructional schedule followed by high school. Teachers provide instruction from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in core subjects from teachers sent to RGV campus by the LFCISD. The school District also sends professionals certified to attend to the needs of students with exceptionalities, such as Special Education, or English Language learners. These special services are delivered in accordance with all TEA standards. *See Attached MOU between LFCISD and AMIKids RGV*

Students receive educational teachings from instructors and COMPASS, a computer based self-paced credit recovery learning system.

AMIKids RGV goal is for every eligible youth to obtain a high school diploma and enroll in post-secondary education and or training opportunities. Listed below are several advantages the program provides:

- TEA approved Curriculum and instructions that integrates the core curriculum with experiential educational opportunities.
- High School credits and GED opportunities for those who qualify, based on individual need
- Transition to post-secondary educational opportunities

Students may also earn the GED while at AMIKids RGV. The diagnostic exam and subsequent instruction is done on campus. When the instructor determines that a student is ready for the GED exam. The student is scheduled to test at Texas State Technical College.

AMIKids RGV understands that TJJD is financially responsible for youth's initial test. Subsequent test must have prior approval from TJJD.

For students who qualify, college level courses are also available through distance learning with video conference instructions from college instructors.

Vocational programming is provided at the program and preparation for employment is a primary focus for all AMIKids Programs. RGV places an emphasis on vocational education and the importance of acquiring a positive work ethic which integrated throughout each student's length of stay. LFCISD offers a comprehensive welding program at RGV. Vocational goals are set as part of individualized service plan process. In this program students receive credit toward high school diploma as well as certifications from the American Welding Society (AWS).

8. CLOTHING

AMIKids RGV ensures that adequate clothing is provided which is clean, properly fitted and seasonally appropriate for all activities. Upon arriving at RGV, youth are given six (6) new underwear, six (6) pairs of socks, two (2) pairs of shorts and pants, one (1) belt, one (1) flat and fitted sheet, one (1) blanket, one (1) pillow case, and one (1) new pillow. Youth will advise any direct care staff member for replacement of any item needing to be replaced.

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11. YOUTH COMPLAINT AND RESOLUTION SYSTEM

AMIKids RGV participates in the TJJD automated grievance system using carbon, pre-numbered forms. The Executive Director is the responsible party for ensuring compliance in this area.

A written student grievance procedure is provided to youth in the program. Youth are allowed to submit grievances in writing to the Director of Operations (DO), the Executive Director (ED), the Regional Director, and their contracting agency. Grievances are entered into the TJJD Youth Complaint and Resolution System by the D.O. RGV will adhere to all applicable TJJD Residential Standards at all times.

The Director of Operations will investigate allegations when investigations are assigned to the facility. The TJJD Hotline notices are posted in all common areas on the RGV campus.

AMIKids RGV will submit a *monthly grievance report* to TJJD no later than the 8th working day of each month. The primary person responsible for submitting this report is the programs Director of Operations.

12. YOUTH RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

AMIKids RGV Earned Privilege System

Standard Privilege Grid

Rank	Private	PFC	Sergeant	Lieutenant	Captain/Major
Telephone	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	10 Minutes	10 Minutes	15 Minutes
Stamps	3/Week	3/Week	3/Week	3+/Week	4+/Week
Grooming *	#1 cut	# 1 cut	# 1&2 cut	# 2 cut/fade to #2	Same as 3
Weekend Entertainment	Yellow or Blue Card	Yellow or Blue Card	Yellow or Blue Card	Yellow or Blue Card	Yellow or Blue Card
AMIKids Radio				Radio	Radio
Meals					ONE TIME
Off Campus					
Student Representative		Qualifies for Student Government	Qualifies for Student Government	Grievance Clerk/ Student Representative	Grievance Clerk/ Student Representative

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- No youth will be disciplined for bed-wetting.

All youth have the right not to be discriminated against because of race, sex, language, and national origin, physical or other handicaps, religion or personal opinions.

Other specific youth rights at RGV include:

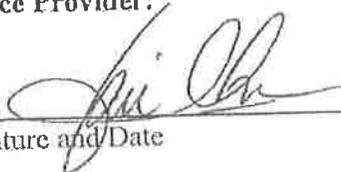
- **Free Speech and Expression** – Youth have the right to express themselves freely, so long as their expression does not interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the program, or except where totally free expression would be inappropriate due to the unique vulnerability of children to improper influence.
- **Religious Freedom** – Youth have the right to participate in religious activities of their choice, subject to the availability of such activities. The RGV program or its staff will not require or encourage youth to participate in any religious activity.
- **Personal Possessions** – Youth may earn the right to keep and use a limited amount of personal possessions so long as these possessions do not endanger the safety of staff or youth. These possessions cannot disrupt programs or activities, encourage delinquent subculture values, or appeal to the unique vulnerability of children to improper influence.
- **Visitors** – Youth have the right to receive visitors, limited only by consideration of facility security or order. Youth also have the right to refuse to receive visitors.
- **Mail and Telephone** – Youth have the right to correspond freely through the mail. RGV staff may not read incoming or outgoing mail, but may open it in the youth's presence to inspect for contraband. Youth will be provided access to telephones to the extent possible within facility limitations, with equal opportunity for telephone use being provided to all residents. Youth will have access to a telephone in the event of an emergency. RGV is not obligated to pay for incoming or outgoing call, except in the case of an emergency.
- **Protection from Physical and Psychological Harm** – All youth have the right to be protected from physical and emotional harm. They have the right to adequate food, clothing and shelter. They will not be deprived of food or sleep in the interest of treatment or discipline. Repetitive, purposeless, degrading work is not permitted. Corporate punishment is prohibited. Youth shall not be administered tranquilizers or other drugs in the interest of discipline or order.
- **Medical and Dental Care** – All youth have the right to basic and necessary medical and dental care, both routine and emergency.
- **Accesses to Attorneys** – Youth have the right to confer with their attorneys in privacy, with appropriate restrictions on the time and place of the meeting except in legitimate emergencies.
- **Right to be informed** – Youth have the right to be informed of all rights, policies, procedures and rules affecting them as a resident and participant in the RGV program.
- **Accuracy and Fairness in Decisions** – Youth have the right to expect accuracy and fairness in all decisions made concerning them. The degree of procedural protection afforded a youth shall be consistent with the requirements of due process of law.
- **Confidentiality of Records** – Youth have the right to expect that their records will not be released to anyone other than the staff and professional consultants of RGV or TJJD, juvenile court, juvenile probation/parole department, the youths' attorney and any other person found by the juvenile court to have legitimate interest in the youths' records.

 **TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Work Narrative/Program Components

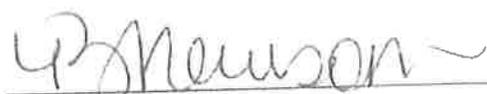
Service Provider certifies by his/her signature that all information in the SOW is complete and accurate and that the services described will be adhered to for the extent of the contract, unless amended with the agreement of both parties; and that he/she has full authority to sign and submit the Statement of Work Narrative/Program Components and Budget.

Service Provider:

 6-15-16

Signature and Date

Approved by Youth Services Contracts Manager:

 6/30/16

Signature and Date

