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2022

Travis County Auditor's Office Examination of Pretrial Services

Travis County Auditor's Office
Risk Evaluation and Consulting Division

June 2, 2022

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TRAVIS COUNTY
AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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Date: June 2, 2022

To: Rudy Perez
Director, Pretrial Services

From: Patti Smith
Travis County Auditor

Subject: #22-13 Pretrial Services Statutory Examination

Scheduled as part of our statutory requirements, the Risk Evaluation and Consulting Division of the Travis County Auditor's Office has completed an examination of Travis County Pretrial Services. We conducted our examination in accordance with the applicable statutes governing the County Auditor's Office, and those relating to County financial and accounting protocols. As a result of our examination, we are providing this report on our findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Travis County Pretrial Services is affiliated with the Travis County Adult Probation Department and was established in the late 1960's with the assistance of many local criminal justice groups and organizations. Pretrial Services is a county-funded department under the authority of the District Judges. It assists in the release and supervision of defendants prior to case adjudication while providing counseling and monitoring for these defendants.

The Pretrial Investigations Unit interviews defendants in custody to make recommendations to the Courts regarding release on personal bond and which conditions, if any, should be required of the defendant if he/she is released. This unit also interviews the defendants to obtain information that will assist the Courts in determining indigence eligibility for a court-appointed attorney. By assisting with the release of qualified defendants on personal bond, Pretrial Services provides a cost savings to Travis County by reducing the number of incarcerated individuals while they await trial.

The Case Management Unit provides direct/indirect supervision to defendants by monitoring court dates to ensure the defendant appears as directed. This unit also monitors bond conditions to ensure the defendant is in compliance with any conditions placed on the bond. Case managers connect

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the defendants with resources in the community that will assist them in maintaining stability. The Case Management Unit monitors the following caseloads: family violence program, intensive supervision program, mental health program, electronic monitoring program, and ignition interlock program.

EXAMINATION METHODOLOGY

Our work was based on applying sampling procedures to office records and on verbal and written representations from Pretrial Services. Sampling relates to examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial records and statements. The use of sampling techniques would not necessarily disclose all material issues and weaknesses in this functional area. In regard to the written and verbal representations made by Pretrial Services, unless otherwise noted in this report, office management maintains that the assertions we relied upon in the examination were correct to the best of their knowledge.

SCOPE

This report details an assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the overall system of financial controls in place for Pretrial Services during the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. This review included examinations of the overall internal controls in place for cash handling, accounts receivable, disbursements, general ledger, internal/external reporting, professional services, and fixed assets.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

No significant findings noted.

EXAMINATION TEAM

Lisa Denton, Financial Analyst VI
Frank Williams, Staff
Ely Allen, Staff

CLOSING

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Pretrial Services and the Commissioners Court. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance received from the management and staff of the Pretrial Services Office during our review. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.

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Travis County Auditor

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