July 29, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM (EDT)
Virtual Training (Complimentary)

How to Safely Contract for Jail Service

Instructor: Marc F. Stern, MD, MPH

This workshop reviews the pros and cons of contracting for mental-health and medical services and discusses how jail commanders can effectively, safely, and economically deliver healthcare via a vendor. The focus is on the time prior to contracting and during the life of the contract. Prior to contracting, the jail needs to issue an RFP and negotiate a contract. Jails often leave key elements out of RFPs and contracts such as an adequate description of current healthcare operations, meaningful performance requirements (PR) that go beyond “counting widgets,” and setting penalties and incentives for achievement of the PRs. These and other elements are explored. Once the vendor is in place, the jail commander must continue a certain level of familiarity with, and involvement in, the healthcare operation to ensure that individuals are safe, and liability for the county is avoided. The workshop also explores these jail command responsibilities.

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