

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Gaston Emergency Medical Services (GEMS)
And
Gaston Family Health Services (GFHS)

HRSA-25-005
Quality Improvement Fund – Transitions in Care for Justice-Involved Populations (QIF-TJI)
Grant # Q8JCS54484

Whereas:

GEMS is an organization dedicated to supporting the successful reintegration of justice-involved individuals by providing essential services that address barriers to successful reentry, including transportation, access to important identification, and assistance in connecting individuals to community resources. These services are crucial in ensuring that individuals transitioning out of incarceration have the support they need to re-enter society and maintain stability.

Whereas: Gaston Family Health Services (GFHS) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that serves Gaston County and the surrounding region. GFHS provides comprehensive healthcare services to over 100,000 patients annually, including primary medical care, behavioral health, substance use treatment, and more. As part of its mission, GFHS strives to reduce health disparities and improve access to healthcare for underserved and marginalized populations, including justice-involved individuals. GFHS is the recipient of funding for HRSA-25-005 with the performance period of 12/01/2024-11/30-2026. The carceral partner for this grant is Gaston Correctional Center in Dallas NC.

Whereas: HealthNet Gaston (HNG) works to connect uninsured individuals with healthcare payor sources and resources to improve their health including primary medical care, specialty care, and hospital services. Additionally, HNG serves as the Lead Agency of the Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland Continuum of Care and has expertise in preventing homelessness and housing populations who face barriers to getting and maintaining adequate housing including people with low-incomes, who are justice-involved, and/or are on the Sex Offender Registry. HNG serves as the Project Manager for HRSA-25-005.

Whereas: GEMS and Gaston Family Health Services and HealthNet Gaston share a commitment to supporting the successful reentry of justice-involved individuals into society. They recognize the importance of holistic, community-based support that includes access to healthcare, financial literacy, job readiness, and mentorship to ensure successful long-term reintegration and reduce recidivism rates.

For HRSA-25-005, GEMS, Gaston Family Health Services, and HealthNet Gaston agree to collaborate to support Justice-Involved Populations released into the community from Gaston Correctional Center as follows

- **Referral and Connection to Healthcare Services:**
 - HNG care navigators will meet with QIF-TJI population members within 90 days of release to assess their healthcare needs, including physical health, mental health, substance use treatment, and access to other healthcare services. This will include connecting individuals to appropriate insurance options such as Medicaid, Medicare, ACA, or VA benefits.
 - To ensure they have access to the services they need upon release and reintegration into the community, QIF-TJI participants will be provided with appointments at GFHS to address their healthcare and social needs including but not limited to primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health care, substance use services, pharmacy, HIV/AIDS services, Hep C services, supportive services, and other community health center services as needed.
 - **Transportation Services:**
To the extent allowable with scheduling, GEMS will help facilitate transportation for justice-involved individuals transitioning from incarceration to essential appointments, including medical care, behavioral health services, and other critical support needed for successful reintegration into the community through the Recovery Transportation Program. This includes coordination with local treatment providers, reentry programs, and court systems to ensure timely access to services that promote stability and reduce recidivism. GEMS is committed to providing these services with dignity, safety, and a focus on individual recovery needs.
- **Access to Identification and Essential Documents:**
 - GEMS will help assist program participants in obtaining essential identification documents, including photo IDs and birth certificates.
 - GEMS will also help support participants in obtaining cell phones to help ensure they have the necessary tools to access services, such as employment, housing, etc.
 - Funds received by Gaston Family Health Services (GFHS) and allocated to Gaston County EMS (GEMS) may be used to support a range of services and materials that directly benefit program participants. Allowable expenditures include software rental fees to support program operations and data tracking, the purchase of cell phones with 30-day service plans to improve participant communication and access to services, and harm reduction materials such as Naloxone, substance test kits, and wound care supplies. Additionally, funds may be used to cover the cost of medications and essential supplies for program participants to support their recovery, health, and overall well-being.
- **Healthcare and Behavioral Health Support:**
 - Gaston Family Health Services (GFHS) will provide medical and behavioral health services to participants referred by GEMS. This includes access to primary care, behavioral health services, substance use treatment, and additional medical services necessary to address the healthcare needs of transitioning individuals.
- **Comprehensive Support and Coordination:**
 - Both GEMS, Gaston Family Health Services and HealthNet Gaston will work collaboratively to ensure that participants receive seamless and coordinated support, including access to housing, healthcare, transportation, and community resources. This holistic support model is designed to reduce recidivism and increase the likelihood of successful reentry.
- **Ongoing Coordination and Collaboration:**
 - Regular communication between GEMS, Gaston Family Health Services and HealthNet Gaston will be maintained to monitor the progress of participants

- GFHS will monitor health outcomes and provide regular feedback on the healthcare services provided to participants.
 - Both organizations will evaluate the success of the partnership annually to ensure continued effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.
 - **Sustainability and Future Growth:**
 - GEMS and GFHS and HealthNet Gaston will continue to seek funding opportunities to sustain and expand their services for justice-involved individuals, ensuring that the program meets the evolving needs of the community.
 - All organizations will work together to refine processes and explore new ways to improve the reentry experience for participants, based on feedback from individuals and community partners.
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For GEMS:

Mark Lamphiear, EMS Chief

Date: _____

For Gaston Family Health Services:

Robert Spencer, CEO

Date: _____

**Gaston Family Health Services (GFHS) & Gaston Emergency Medical Services (GEMS)
Payment Schedule & Reporting Requirements – Addendum 1**

**Quality Improvement Fund: Transitions in Care for Justice-Involved Populations
Grant # Q8JCS54484**

Funding Schedule:

- **Year 1 (April 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025):** \$20,000.00 total
- **Year 2 (December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026):** \$25,000.00 total

Payment Schedule:

GEMS will submit an invoice to HealthNet Gaston (Project Manager) Biannually providing a detailed breakdown of expenses by line item. HealthNet Gaston will review and submit the invoice to GFHS. GFHS will remit payment to GEMS by the 15th of the following month.

- **Year 1: June 30th, 2025
November 30th, 2025**
- **Year 2: June 30th, 2026
November 30th, 2026**

Reporting Schedule:

GEMS will provide HNG (Project Manager) a monthly report due on the **3rd** of each month, covering the previous month. The report must include the following:

1. **Number of New Patients Served** during the reporting period (Month)
2. **Total Number of Patients Served** during the reporting period (Month)
3. **Total Number of Encounters** during the reporting period (Month)
4. **Training and Technical Assistance Needs**
5. **Specific Outcomes, Challenges, Barriers, or Successes** encountered during the reporting period

For GEMS:

Mark Lamphiear, EMS Chief

Date: _____

For Gaston Family Health Services:

Robert Spencer, CEO

Date: 7/1/25