

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **25th day of October, 2023**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Special Called Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

Jessica Gonzalez	President
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Denise Garza	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Member
Eddie Garcia	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member
Minerva Pena	Member

ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Rene Gutierrez	Superintendent of Schools
Ben Castillo	Board Attorney

ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Special Called Board Meeting** has been duly given in the manner and for the length of time as prescribed by law. The meeting was called to order and declared ready for the transaction of business with the following to wit:

- I. Meeting called to order by Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call: Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President announced that all Board Members were present.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2023, with any corrections/deletions.**

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2023, with no corrections/deletions as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

The Board may deliberate or take action regarding the following agenda items.

Board policy BE (Local) and Robert's Rules limits debate to two opportunities. A Trustee may debate a motion for three minutes on the first speaking opportunity and two minutes on the second opportunity.

All Presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

VII. Action Item(s):

A. Recommend approval of the following Bid(s)/Proposal(s)/Purchase(s):

1. Recommend awarding CSP #24-110 for Term life/AD&D Employee Benefit Plan to Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Lombard, IL. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President asked, Dr. Gutierrez, will you have Ms. Zarate? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, yes, I have Ms. Zarate, everyone has a copy of the Power Point of what Ms. Zarate is going to be talking about, so, go ahead. Ms. Maricela Z. Puente, Employees Benefits/Risk Management Department Director stated, test, okay, good afternoon everyone, good afternoon President Jessica Gonzalez, Dr. Rene Gutierrez and Members of the Board. Thank you for having us here today and you see on your agenda, the Power Point that we have, we have a few slides to share with you. And we are going to be going over the agenda and the first one is CSP #24-110 which is the Term Life /AD&D. So, what we wanted to share with you is just a little bit for your consideration. The Term Life/Accidental and Death and Dismemberment, AD&D, this is an important policy to have in any district and as a district, in our school district, this is an added benefit, added benefit toward all of our full-time employees and it is paid 100% by the district. So, the rationale is that the district purchases this and its in the amount per employee, in the amount of 15 thousand dollars. So, this is something that is definitely a benefit and we are very proud to provide this to our employees. So, for this bid, there were two submittals, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Mutual of Omaha, so, you see there the points accrued as ranked by the ranking committee and Blue Cross Blue Shield was ranked the top vendor. We adhered to the same process that we followed in previous years in terms of ranking, we used the district and campus personnel to review and rank this CSP. The time frame for this is, starts January 1, 2024, and it ends December 31, 2024, it is a 3-year term with option to renew for 2 additional terms. So, this is administrations recommendation, to award CSP #24-110 to Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez asked, I will, that's all you have, right? I will make a motion to approve administration recommendation. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo, 3 minutes. Mr. Elizondo asked, how many? Ms. Gonzalez replied, 3 sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, who's taking count, you? Thank you. Can you just explain what the savings are to the district in comparison from one to the other? Ms.**

Puente stated, the savings as compared from Blue Cross Blue Shield in terms of the administrative fee, that was one of the things that was charged less by Blue Cross Blue Shield, it is less than it was last year as far as the fees that were paid. Mr. Elizondo asked, what is that number? **Ms. Puente replied, let me check.** Mr. Elizondo stated, stop the time, thank you. **Ms. Puente asked, are you asking what is it in the backup?** Mr. Elizondo replied, what is, what is, you said administrative fee, what is the administrative fee that you say we are getting savings? **Ms. Puente stated, yes, the administrative fee would be a decrease from what we are currently paying in the amount of \$37,968.91.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so, before that, how much was it? **Ms. Puente replied, prior to this year, we were paying \$205,664.94.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and so now its \$205,664, is that what you are said? **Ms. Puente replied, no, the current one is \$205,664.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and now its 167? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Pena, same time. Ms. Pena asked, yes, and there's no cost to the employee in any way, shape or form with this? **Ms. Puente replied, correct, that is correct.** Ms. Pena stated, I wanted to express that. **Ms. Puente stated, yes, they do not contribute to this particular plan, this is 100% paid by the district.** Ms. Pena asked, and this, you said, is like 15 thousand that the plan will cover if something were to happen to them, is that what you're saying? **Ms. Puente replied, yes maam.** Ms. Pena stated, and just for future maybe, we can go a little bit higher in the future because really, 15 thousand doesn't even cover the funeral expense, I don't know if you noticed that. So, maybe in the future we can look at it higher please. **Ms. Puente stated, certainly.** **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote, motion passes, 7, 0, unanimous.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend approval awarding CSP #24-110 for Term life/AD&D Employee Benefit Plan to Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Lombard, IL. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term. (7-0-0)

2. Recommend awarding CSP #24-111 for Stop Loss Insurance for Self-Funded Employee Benefit Plan to Companion Life from San Francisco, CA. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I call the question. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Elizondo, I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. Mr. Elizondo stated, I call to question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, he calls a call to question but there hasn't, there hasn't been a motion on this. *Mr. Ben Castillo, Legal Counsel stated, yeah, lets have a motion and a second and then.* Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice President stated, motion to approve. Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, second. Mr. Garcia stated, he called a question so. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, you called a question so I can't ask a question. *Mr. Castillo asked, so if the Board is ready to vote, you can go ahead, I mean, and Mr. Trustee Elizondo called the question, depending on our procedures, if that is what the Board uses to move forward with the vote, then let's move forward with it.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, correct, so there's a motion and a second. **Ms. Pat**

C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote, opposed, is that a 6, 1? Ms. Pena asked, is that a nay? Ms. Perez echoed, is that a nay sir? Mr. Elizondo replied, yes, it is a nay. Ms. Perez stated, 6, 1, motion passes.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, to recommend awarding CSP #24-111 for Stop Loss Insurance for Self-Funded Employee Benefit Plan to Companion Life from San Francisco, CA. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Pena
Nay: Mr. Elizondo
Abstain:

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

3. Recommend awarding CSP #24-112 Third Party Services, Preferred Organization for Self-Funded BISD Employee Benefit Plan, Wellness and Disease Management for the Disease Management portion, to Miracle Medical of Weslaco, Texas. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, motion to approved. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, excuse me, really quick, I'm sorry. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, go ahead Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena asked, on number 2, is it going to be any cost to the employee, because since we weren't allowed to ask questions? Ms. Gonzalez replied, its already, its already been voted on. Ms. Pena stated, I know, but I don't know that, I'm a Board Member and I'm in the blind, I'd like to know if there is any cost to the employee? Ms. Gonzalez stated, for the record, you have already voted for it, but no, to my understanding, there is no cost to the employee, we are on number 3. Ms. Pena asked, is that correct, there is no cost? **Ms. Maricela Z. Puente, Employees Benefits/Risk Management Department Director stated, that is correct.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, discussion.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question ma'am. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo asked, yes ma'am, she has a presentation, right? Ms. Gonzalez replied, she has a presentation ready, do you want to hear the presentation before your question? Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, I'll wait, sure. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, lets go ahead and start with your presentation but we do have a motion on the table. **Ms. Puente stated, thank you Ms. Gonzalez, as the CSP indicates, this is for chronic disease management, very important also and it is a very important choice for our employees to have. What we like is that an employee has a choice to seek this medical equipment or supplies that they need, they can go through their pharmacy of choice and pay the out of pocket, the copay, everything that may come with it, alternatively, this is a choice that is free. Zero copay, zero deductible,**

zero out of pocket and zero for delivery. So, the rationale is to provide free diabetic supplies which may include glucometers, lancets, strips and things of that nature. The, one of the questions that had come up previously, was, okay, United Healthcare, do they provide the same service, there is an email in your backup and that indicates, and its on page 51, where United did respond that they did not submit a disease management services under Proposal 24-112. So, the purpose of a CSP, the purpose of this CSP is to obtain services and supplies at a discounted fee and again, the employee doesn't pay anything. Right now, I want you to know we have actively, 122 employees that exercise the right to choose to use this service. There was one bid that was submitted and that was from Miracle Medical. So, the time frame effective for this policy is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, it's a 3-year term with option to renew for two additional terms. So, for this reason, the administration recommends awarding CSP 24-112 for the disease management to Miracle Medical. Ms. Gonzalez asked, thank you Ms. Zarate, did you still have a question Mr. Elizondo, go ahead? Mr. Elizondo replied, I have more now, ma'am, just, you said that there is no cost? **Ms. Puente stated, to the employee.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so who pays for? **Ms. Puente replied, the district.** Mr. Elizondo echoed, the district. **Ms. Puente continued, we are invoiced on a monthly basis.** Mr. Elizondo asked, on a monthly basis, and UHC who won the contract doesn't provide any of these services? **Ms. Puente replied, that is correct, they would have to out source it or contract out, they themselves don't do it, they currently, they utilize, with other places, other districts, Livongo which is a company similar to Miracle Medical but that was not part of the CSP.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and we wouldn't get a savings since we are already working with a major medical with them if we would go with them through, for this process? My understanding, Blue Cross Blue Shield would do it also, as well, they would provide the services for diabetic care and all this DME equipment, not at this cost. **Ms. Puente stated, yes, and as I indicated and I don't know if I'm answering your question sir, the employee still can go through their pharmacy of choice and obtain this and it would come under a medical claim.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so we wouldn't need this? **Ms. Puente replied, this is something where our employees are not paying a copay, not paying deductible, not paying anything.** Mr. Elizondo asked, the employee is not paying anything but the district is paying, how much as we paying? **Ms. Puente replied, that is correct, up to right now, for this school year, we are paying, we have paid, 56 thousand dollars, 56,182 dollars.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so equivalent to a teacher's salary. **Ms. Puente stated, conceivably, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so we would rather have a third-party company come in here, take 56 thousand dollars when we do it through our major medical, which is covered? **Ms. Puente stated, 56 thousand is a lot of money.** Mr. Elizondo continued, and that's the minimum, because it could be more. **Ms. Puente stated, sure, but if we are, we can pay this invoice, we the district pay this invoice, but if it goes through the medical claim, it would be more.** Mr. Elizondo asked, could, have we gone through that comparison yet, we have, where is it? **Ms. Puente replied, yes, you have a backup page, and again, we could not include, we could not include United on this because this was not part of their proposal, but what we did include for you is the generic or the market price for these services and that would be on page 67 of your packet, I'm sorry.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I am waiting for the comparison. **Ms. Puente stated, oh, yes, well, I referred you to page 67, so, you look, line by line on page 67 of your packet, the glucometer is of zero fee, to the district, and the generic price for that would be 17 dollars and 99 cents. The premium market price would be 79 dollars and 99 cents. The next line is the test**

strips, where they would charge us 35 dollars as compared to 41 dollars. I'm sorry, I stand corrected, its page 52. And the premium market cost would be 99 dollars and 99 cents. The lancets would cost, with Miracle Medical, 10 dollars as compared to the market price of 12.99 or 24.99. So, you will see in your, in that chart and I can go through each line, pen needles, 24 dollars as compared to 24 and 99 cents which is similar but then the premium market cost would be 52 dollars and 99 cents. The syringes would cost us 22 dollars with Miracle Medical as compared to 25 dollars and 49 cents and 43 dollars and 95 in the premium market cost. The lancing device is 7 dollars with Miracle Medical as compared to 9.99 with the generic market cost and 32.99 cents with the premium market price and the last one is the control solution, 5 dollars with 50 cents, with Miracle Medical and the generic market cost would be 7 dollars and 49 cents and the premium market cost would be 14 dollars and 99 cents. So, the first column that you see of prices for Miracle Medical, that's what the district would pay because we are self-funded. But what I'm saying is that this price is lower still than what the market price is if we were to go through the medical claim. And also, important, Board Members, is that of this is a volunteer option for our employees, if they wish to go through the pharmacy, they very may well do so. As I indicated, right now, there's only 122 employees that are using this and don't pay anything for them. Mr. Elizondo asked, did you go to the major medical plan and asked them to see if they would bid on something on this or they were not given the option? Ms. Puente replied, the major medical, are we talking? Mr. Elizondo interjected, United Health Care. Ms. Puente stated, we opened it for bids for everybody, they elected not to apply for this sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, was this part of it or was it not included in the information that they requested? Mr. Puente replied, it was part of the CSP 24-112. Mr. Elizondo stated, one last question, and it says here, Miracle Medical is a supplemental service at no additional cost to BISD, no additional cost above what? Ms. Puente stated, to the employee, to the employee. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, because it says cost to BISD, right? Ms. Puente stated, it's a discounted fee sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, well, because I'm reading from number 1, Miracle Medical is a supplemental service at no additional cost to BISD. Ms. Puente asked, where are you referring to sir? Mr. Elizondo replied, the page you provided, 52. Ms. Puente stated, certainly, at no additional cost to BISD, diabetic supplies are covered through the pharmacy benefit manager, not the 3rd party administrator. Mr. Elizondo asked, because it says there, right, period. Ms. Puente replied, yes sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, at no additional cost to BISD, period. Ms. Puente stated, is should read sir, its at no cost to the employee. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member interjected, this, so this is wrong? Ms. Puente stated, it's a typo, yes ma'am. Ms. Peña asked, so, BISD does pay? Ms. Puente stated, yes ma'am. Mr. Ben Castillo, Legal Counsel asked, are we switching speakers? Ms. Puente stated, at a discounted price. Ms. Gonzalez stated, hold on, that's what I was saying, hold on Ms. Pena. Mr. Elizondo asked, how much time do I have left? Mr. Castillo replied, (inaudible). Mr. Elizondo asked, so what is the cost? Ms. Puente stated, oh, and Miracle Medical will charge us based on the usage and as I indicated, its been 122 employees so far, there is no administrative fee, so, they will charge us for what is used only. Mr. Elizondo asked, okay, can you give us a synopsis, who Miracle Medical is and where are they located and where they do business prior to BISD? Ms. Puente replied, sure, as far as the history, I do have the representative here, Mr. Lozano, if you wish to call him for the specific. Mr. Castillo interjected, for the record, that's time, but as far as the presentation is concerned. Ms. Gonzalez asked, we do have more questions, but you still

have 2 minutes rebuttal, so if you want to wait for? Mr. Elizondo replied, well, my question stands, they can answer it, I don't have to ask after that and I can rebuttal after they answer the question. Ms. Pena interjected, this is really important ladies and gentlemen, let me remind you, please, this is important for the health and public that we serve. To tie our hands like this doesn't speak well of the Board. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Pena, sir, if you could just give a brief of where this I'm right here. Mr. Jorge Lozano, President and CEO of Miracle Medical stated, I'm sorry. Ms. Gonzalez continued, that's alright, if you could just give a brief answer to Mr. Elizondo where you are from and who you've dealt with. Mr. Lozano stated, yes ma'am, thank you for having us, good evening, Members of the Board, Ms. President Gonzalez, Superintendent Gutierrez, my name is Jorge Lozano, I am the President and CEO of Miracle Medical, we've been in business for 19 years, since 2004, our home is Weslaco, Texas. We've been doing disease management for 12 years now, we have as far as our experience, we've, we've been fortunate to be here for 4 years at Brownsville ISD, La Joya ISD, Weslaco ISD, San Benito CISD, Mission CISD, Donna ISD, those are some of our clients. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you sir, Mr. Ortiz has a question for Ms. Zarate. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, just a couple of questions to clarify, the fiscal implications for this is listed at 57,522, is that correct ma'am? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir, that's base on what was utilized last year, so, remember, its not a fixed figure, its not a fixed amount because it depends on who uses it.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, now, this is coming out of the self-funded insurance funds, my question is, if were using, if we only have 122 employees out of all the employees that we have in the district, what is the cost that these 122 employees are incurring? **Ms. Puente replied, so, for 2021, we utilized, we paid 51 thousand and 57, 51 thousand and 57 dollars and 50 cents. For 2022, the amount was 57,521 and 50 cents. And currently, up to now, its 56,182.** Mr. Ortiz asked, and this is based on only 122 employees? **Ms. Puente replied, yes, and actually, its grown a little bit, it started, in 2021 with 72 employees, then in 2022, 96 employees and 122 presently.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, another follow up question, I know that when United Health Care was presented, the question was asked to them, if they were providing these services, their answer was yes and now we hear that its no? **Ms. Puente stated, as per their own response sir, in their email, that is not part of what they submitted.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I just wanted to bring this up because I know that question was asked to them. **Ms. Puente stated, that is correct.** Mr. Ortiz stated, myself, personally, I was under the impression that they were going to provide these services. **Ms. Puente stated, they said they could provide it, but what didn't follow that comment was, okay, is it free? Because if it's free, by all means, it is not free.** Mr. Ortiz asked, they didn't tell us that night, is that correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, they did tell us or they didn't tell us? **Ms. Puente replied, they did not, I agree with you sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, alright, okay. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Peña, did you have a question? Ms. Peña replied, yes, okay, number one, if they say they could provide the service and they didn't, why didn't you or administration go and ask them about it so we can get maybe a ballpark figure if it would be a lot less, I have a huge issue with 3rd party administrators. Now you do say that we spend 56 thousand, 57 thousand a year to come, in 2022, somewhere around there and you said that up to today, in this year we already have 56 thousand and 182 and that's two and a half months, so you are saying that maybe for the next, the rest of the year nobody is going to use it? Because how is it that you said that its 57 thousand for one whole year, 2022 and here we are in October and we just started in August or July the new year and we are already up to 56

thousand. Ms. Peña stated, okay, so in January **Ms. Puente stated, the period starting this policy is in January, so its been not from August.** Ms. Peña stated, okay, that's where the confusing part it. Now, let me ask you this, who had this contract prior to this, this 3rd party administrator, who was the one holding this? **Ms. Puente stated, for this particular service it was Miracle Medical.** Ms. Peña asked last year? **Ms. Puente replied, correct, the last 4 years.** Ms. Pena asked, so they have been doing it for the last 4 years? **Ms. Puente replied, yes maam.** Ms. Pena continued, and the cost you said is to the employee not the district? **Ms. Puente stated, no, the district, through our self-funded plan, we pay for the invoices as they are, as it is used.** Ms. Peña asked, and please forgive me and I'm going to step on toes and I apologize, but it comes to our taxpayers money, a 3rd party administrators, it really, I mean, I'm not sure that we need something like this in 2023 when we so much information out there, so much stuff where you can pick up the phone and you can get to the top of the line in the big hospitals and get information. I just have an issue with going through a 3rd party to pay for something, especially when we didn't ask our current company if they could do it and they could do it less, for less, you don't know that, am I right? **Ms. Puente replied, that is correct, but they had an opportunity to submit as well maam.** Ms. Peña asked, do you have it in writing? And I would like to see where they said no, we are not going to submit for this. **Ms. Puente stated, we have their application.** Ms. Peña asked, where they said, specifically, no, we are not going to submit for this? **Ms. Puente replied, we have their application that does not contain this proposal, the proposal for this.** Ms. Peña asked, but do we have where we asked them, that's what I want to see because, you know, did they ask them, you are doing this, would you also be able to do this, was that actually in there? **Ms. Puente replied, in the CSP maam, because its limited, we do not reach out, what they answer and what the answers they provide is what we utilize, did we go to our 3rd party? First of all, we did not know that they were going to be the 3rd party administrator at the time, but we don't go individually and solicit this information.** Ms. Pena asked, then how does this other party get solicited? **Ms. Puente replied, they submitted a proposal.** Ms. Pena asked, but because they see it? **Ms. Puente replied, correct.** Ms. Peña stated, but you are saying the other agency, you, it doesn't show that they are saying no, they just didn't respond, so you don't know if they saw it. **Ms. Puente stated, they saw the bid that was posted as Miracle Medical did as any one else could have seen that.** Ms. Peña asked, and you are saying this, that they saw, how do you know they saw it, what proof do you have that they saw it? **Ms. Puente replied, their application, they submitted an application that was specific to the TPA.** Ms. Peña asked, was this include in it, the 3rd party administrator included in that, in that application? **Ms. Puente replied, the 3rd, the 3rd party administrator submitted an application, a proposal, and in their proposal, they, they, the same information went out to everybody and so I cant tell them or encourage them to fill out certain things.** Ms. Peña stated, I just want to make sure that they actually got it, that's my thing, I want to make sure that they actually got it because. *Mr. Castillo interjected, time.* Ms. Peña asked, let me just finish with this, there's times when, you know, even Pat sends out stuff to us and the system just doesn't always work and doesn't get through, do you confirm that these people actually get that information, that's what I'm asking? **Ms. Puente replied, I don't have any information that would tell me otherwise.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you guys. Ms. Peña asked, so you do not confirm? Ms. Gonzalez stated, Denise has a question. Ms. Garza asked, thank you Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Zarate, going to what Ms. Peña stated, the CSP was opened up to everybody, they put in their bids, United had the opportunity, with

the original, when we went out for our CSP, to put in also a proposal for that so we cannot force any of these individuals to submit for anything they are not interested in, they only focused on our health coverage, correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Garza asked, so this, everybody received all the information cause from my understanding, as you submit for a bid, there is like a thread and everybody sees that thread. If there is a question from any particular vendor, all the other vendors also see that same information, correct, and they also see the response from our Purchasing Department, correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Garza asked, okay, so, asking United, that day, to see if they could provide a service was pretty much us deviating from the actual CSP, correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Garza stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Garcia has a question. Mr. Garcia asked, so, all these contracts went out at the same time? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Garcia asked, all vendors got to view these contracts at the same time? **Ms. Puente replied, correct.** Mr. Garcia asked, all vendors had the option to bid on whichever contract they saw they wanted to bid on? **Ms. Puente replied, that is correct.** Mr. Garcia asked, so, they had Blue Cross, United, Etna, whoever, had the opportunity to bid on this? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Garcia asked, is this something new, how long have we been having this disease management program? **Ms. Puente replied, at least more than 4 years, to my knowledge, and I can tell you 4 years plus because we've had it when we had it with our current carrier.** Mr. Garcia asked, and again, this is for the benefit of the employees, at no cost to the employee, the district is the one that pays for this? **Ms. Puente replied, correct.** Mr. Garcia stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo interjected, I have a rebuttal. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice President interjected, I would like to call a question. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a rebuttal. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, so then we are done with the questions, so now we are going to start with the rebuttal, so now its two minutes, Mr. Elizondo asked, just, just real quick, you know, just to throw it out there, so test strips from this company is 35 dollars, right, for 50, is that true? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo added, for 50 count, Walmart has them for 9 dollars. And then let me ask you another question, the lancets, this company has them for 10 dollars for 100? **Ms. Puente stated, that is correct.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Walmart has them for a \$1.62 for 100 count. Where are the true savings for the district, those are my questions? **Ms. Puente stated, yes, the information that we considered.** Mr. Elizondo added, and I didn't go through the whole list, I just did two of them. **Ms. Puente stated, absolutely, but the information that is provided is from the vendors that applied.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree, they are coming from the vendors, but I'm representing the school district and the taxpayers, that's why I ask these questions, where is the savings to the taxpayers and the school district when we can go out there and buy them for 9 dollars for the same count, and I'm talking for the better brand and lancets for a \$1.62 for the same count, where are the savings, my question is, where are the savings for the district? That's, that's your responsibility to make sure that that happens, right? **Ms. Puente stated, yes sir, the savings is what you see as compared to the market price, not compared to Walmart.** Mr. Elizondo asked, I'm not, I'm not talking about market price, I'm talking about the savings to the school district, the school district has to pay for these services, where is the savings to the school district when you can go out there and get them for a \$1.62 and for \$9? And the charge here from this 3rd party is \$35 compared to \$9 and \$10 compared to a \$62, my question is, where is the savings to the school district and the tax payers? **Ms. Puente replied, we cannot consider, sir, anyone else other than who applied for the CSP.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so we haven't done our due diligence to make sure that we get the best savings for the school district? **Ms. Puente**

replied, we did post it sir, we are diligent about that and we did follow the procurement process. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have no other questions, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Garcia has a rebuttal. Mr. Garcia stated, I have insurance through the city and pretty much its similar to this and definitely, we as a district don't tell the employee where they can go purchase their products, is that correct? **Ms. Puente stated, yes sir.** Mr. Garcia asked, its their choice? **Ms. Puente replied, correct.** Mr. Garcia stated, I have seen, because I use insulin and I don't mind bringing it up as a personal matter, my co-pay on that is \$20, the dollar amount, if I were to go buy it without this, it would be over \$900. So, unfortunately, yes, there are some items that are something like that because, aspirin, okay, I'm required to take aspirin, the aspirin, the bottle of aspirin is \$12, if I buy it over the counter, it's a lot cheaper, but it is unfortunate that we don't tell our employees where they should go or what they should do because we provide that service free to the employee. So, I don't think that you all are going to be going and looking for each single item and price those items. Again, this is for our employees, no cost to the employees and I've already, I will be making a vote that it is for the benefit of our employees and that's just the comment. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Garza has a follow, a rebuttal. Ms. Garza stated, yes, and I would like to go off of what Mr. Garcia stated, some stores may have it cheaper than somewhere else, but if its at no cost to our employee and this is a benefit to our employees, we don't know their financials, so, if it means them not having to go pay \$10, \$20, which ever it may be and they get to keep that in their bank account, I'm for benefit, you know, for our employees because this is a benefit that we give our employees and this is why maybe some of our employees stay with our district because of our benefits. So, I am, I'm ready to vote. Ms. Gonzalez stated, we just have one or two more rebuttals and yes, we are ready, Ms. Peña, you are next. Ms. Pena stated, yes, we have about 3 thousand employees, Dr. Gutierrez, more or less, somewhere. **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools asked, total employees in the district?** Ms. Peña replied, yes sir. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, over 5,500.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, I went a little low so you could correct me and only 122 use this and my concern is we have 5,000 employees and only 122 are using this. The statements are correct, because if you look at the paper you gave us, diabetic supplies and equipment and stuff is not covered by this 3rd party administrator, its covered by the pharmacy benefit manager, I understand that. My only thing is, I don't want the employees to think that they are getting a break on something when actuality, if you do the math, it doesn't really give them a break. I'm very uncomfortable with 3rd party administrators because of the fact that you, somebody is going to pay the 3rd party, 3rd party is making money, they are not doing it for free. So, he, that persons got to make money and unfortunately, a lot of the times without us knowing, its going through the pocket of the employee. I want to make sure we don't do that, like you said, you go over the counter, you see the price, which is a lot cheaper to the prices that I see that they post here and I just don't want them, put the program out there but don't go out there and hunt for customers. This is what I'm saying that is happening with the people who are running some of these because they need to make money. I am very uncomfortable, always have been, always will be with 3rd party administrators because the person running it and our district are doing a good job, lets keep it there, I'm here to take care of the employee and not let them spend more without them knowing they didn't have to spend, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Pena, Ms. Pat, you ready, we are ready? **Ms. Perez stated, all in favor, motion passes, 4 yes, 3 no.**

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend awarding CSP #24-112 Third Party Services, Preferred Organization for Self-Funded BISD Employee Benefit Plan, Wellness and Disease Management for the Disease Management portion, to Miracle Medical of Weslaco, Texas. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia
Nay: Mr. Elizondo, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Peña
Abstain:

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

4. Recommend awarding CSP #24-112 Third Party Services, Preferred Organization for Self-Funded BISD Employee Benefit Plan, Wellness and Disease Management for the Wellness portion, to U Matter, LLC of San Antonio, Texas. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice President stated, motion to approve. Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President asked, Ms. Zarate, do you want to go ahead and go forward with your presentation before we start with question please? **Ms. Maricela Z. Puente, Employees Benefits/Risk Management Department Director stated,** thank you Ms. Gonzalez, so, CSP #24-112, the portion of wellness. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, may we have the page number that you are on? **Ms. Puente stated, I'm referring, I'm looking at the PowerPoint ma'am.** Ms. Peña asked, oh, but we don't have it in here? Oh, its just that little one? Okay, I thought it was in here. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees interjected, its in the blue folder, it's in the blue folder ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, sorry, thank you. **Ms. Puente stated, it's the second to the last page.** Ms. Peña stated, okay. **Ms. Puente continued, so, the rationale is provide free, onsite, and the key word here is onsite, health screenings for our employees. The new 3rd party administrator, which is United Health Care did not submit a wellness services under their proposal, under CSP 24-112. So, again, the purpose of this CSP is to obtain services at a discounted fee, you will find comparison data from United Health Care and U Matter and you have that in your backup on page 67. So, different types of panel that is tested when the health screenings, health screeners go out and provide that, may range anything from a full chemistry panel, A1C, thyroid, PSA, etcetera. These services are rendered based on a need and includes marketing at the campuses, onsite screenings at each campus and delivery of results within approximately two weeks. This is something also that doesn't have and administrative fee tied to it, it is strictly based on usage by the participants, by our employees. So, one bid was**

submitted and that was for CSP 24-112 and that was U Matter LLC. The time frame for this policy is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 with a 3-year term, it's a 3-year term with option to renew for 2 additional 1-year term. Therefore, the administration recommends U Matter LLC for CSP 24-112 pertaining to the wellness portion. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Zarate, we have a motion on the table, first and a second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have some questions. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo has questions. Mr. Elizondo asked, about the same questions I asked before, who is U Matter? **Ms. Puente replied, U Matter is a company that provides services for health screenings and we have a representative present here today.** Mr. Elizondo asked, is he in the audience? **Ms. Puente replied, yes, her name is Rosanna Shelton.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, I will refer a couple of questions to you, but for now. So, I see that there is 4 here, is that the only 4 tests that you are going to provide, 5, one, two, three, four, five? **Ms. Puente replied, that was just a sample sir.** Mr. Elizondo echoed, samples? **Ms. Puente stated, that was just a sample.** Mr. Elizondo stated, same thing, full chemistry panel, individual health management, the H21C, again, its, this price is what it was quoted for the district, \$20? **Ms. Puente stated, the price is what you find on the biometric screening price comparison, which is part of your backup, full chemistry panel, \$75, the hemoglobin, A1C in the amount of \$20, PSA \$15 and Thyroid Stimulating Hormone for \$20.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so the H1A1C is going to cost the district \$20? **Ms. Puente replied, that is the quoted price, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, and do we know if the individual goes out to the doctor and they ask for that, do we know what they charge us? **Ms. Puente replied, they would have to pay it as a claim.** Mr. Elizondo asked, pay, they would pay a deductible right? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, what's the deductible? **Ms. Puente replied, it would be a co-pay.** Mr. Elizondo asked, what's the co-pay? **Ms. Puente replied, depending on the plan that they are on.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so let's say I'm on the best plan, \$15, I'm here to ask? **Ms. Puente stated, \$30.** Mr. Elizondo echoed, so \$30 right, but they got a doctor to visit with them, correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, if they go out and pay \$20, the district pays the 20, right, not the employee? **Ms. Puente replied, the district is paying for it.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right, and do they get to visit with a doctor for that \$20? **Ms. Puente replied, for the screening, no sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so the district pays the \$20 and there is no clinician there to explain the results? **Ms. Puente replied, and probably Ms. Shelton can provide more information, but its not a doctor that is present, in two weeks' worth of time, the receive the results that can be shared with their doctor.** Mr. Elizondo asked, but there is no clinician to explain, for those \$20 anything? **Ms. Puente replied, what they also have is, the call, they make phone calls to the individual employees if they see that something is abnormal.** Mr. Elizondo stated, my question, my question was not ma'am, my question, do they have a clinician present when they receive those results? **Ms. Puente replied, no.** Mr. Elizondo stated, the answer is no, the answer is no, for \$20 they don't get a clinician, they just get a piece of paper with the results. **Ms. Puente stated, correct.** Mr. Elizondo asked, but if they go see the doctor, under our major medical, they pay the \$30 deductible, they do sit with a clinician. **Ms. Puente stated, if they go see their doctor, make an appointment and do their copay and everything, yes, they do.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just like everybody will, does, right? **Ms. Puente stated, it's an option, this service is also an option.** Mr. Elizondo stated, correct, but we are paying for it. **Ms. Puente stated, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, it's not an option for us anymore. **Ms. Puente stated, it's an option of the employee elects to use it.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but we pay for it, it's not an option

anymore. **Ms. Puente stated, correct, if they exercise that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, so, if this patient gets a, gets these results and its abnormal, they are going to go see a doctor, they don't have to pay the co-pay anymore? **Ms. Puente stated, no, they do have to pay.** Mr. Elizondo asked, oh, they do have to pay the co-pay? So, its \$30 plus the co-pay, plus \$20, if the doctor wants to accept these results, if not, then he has to run them again, correct? **Ms. Puente stated, he may or she may ask for additional test.** Mr. Elizondo stated, correct, right, so additional cost to the employee, plus the district, again, where is the savings to the district? **Ms. Puente stated, the savings sir is in the idea, and this stems back to 2006, approximately, through our EBC, there was presented an option for an onsite option for employees, not everybody goes to the doctor as regularly as perhaps, you know, we should, but, this is a convenience service that is onsite and they don't have to take a day off, they don't have to get a substitute, it is convenient for them.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and now I want to ask the questions to the, I guess the representative, how much time do I have sir? *Mr. Castillo stated, time.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, I won't rebuttal. Ms. Gonzalez stated, go ahead Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, okay, Ms. Zarate, I go back again, please forgive me and I've been through quite a few medical things in my life and God had blessed me and got me through, so, I'm very concerned on the health care that we get. And why is there a need to send them to non-doctor to get information as a 3rd party, here I go again, why do we need to have this when it can go in to a doctor. Because I have been, I will tell you this, I wont name the person but I'll name the incident where I went to a dentist and they had their aides who are not certified dentists and completely destroyed my teeth and my gums and my nerves and my teeth and it broke my heart. When I said, they are not dentists, why are they doing this? I told them, that's it, I'm done with you, how could you have let her do this to me and she's not a certified dentist? Same thing, why are we, why do we need this? Why do we need this and not just have our employees go to a medical licensed doctor who can save their life if its crucial cause you are running out of time? And I, please forgive me, see this as kind of a in-between that's not necessary because bottom line, people don't go to the doctor for fun, people don't go to the doctors just because, they go to the doctor when ya, they are crucial, they're in trouble, they are probably at their last steps. The last thing we want is for someone to tell them, go to this and then go to the lab, I don't see the need for this and answer this, this doesn't cost a penny to the district, am I correct? **Ms. Puente stated, this doesn't cost a penny to the employee.** Ms. Peña stated, that's not my question, can you please answer the questions that we actually ask you, I would really, this doesn't cost a penny to the district? **Ms. Puente stated, it, the district does pay.** Ms. Peña asked, what is more or less, give me a ballpark figure of what the district is paying for this for the year of the employees and how many employees have used this? **Ms. Puente replied, certainly, in 2022, I'll go back even one year before that, 2021, because of COVID, this was not provided. In 2022, we had approximately 4,950 employees and I will repeat that number, 4,950 employees that utilized this service and for that service, we paid, from our self-funded plan, the district paid \$406,525. In 2023, which were not completed the school year, of course, so far, and they are actively right now at the campuses, we have so far, 1,829 employees that have utilized it. It's a preventative measure that is with the intention for it and for the convenience and so far, we have paid, \$171,455.** Ms. Peña stated, okay, so then, in 2022, you had 4,950 employees. **Ms. Puente stated, yes maam.** Ms. Peña continued, and we are almost done with this year because you said these start in January, am I correct. **Ms. Puente stated, that is correct, actually, well, the plan yes, we pay them when we started the**

school year is when we sent out a schedule for all the campuses. Ms. Pena asked, the 129 people, what time period does that cover? **Ms. Puente asked, the 1,829?** Ms. Peña replied, the 129, you said, I'm sorry, for 2023, how many? **Ms. Puente stated, 2023, 1,829.** Ms. Pena asked, and it covers from what time to what time? **Ms. Puente replied, I would say the beginning, towards the end of September to the present and they are still probably less than 10 campuses to go.** Ms. Pena asked, and do we know that every employee knows they are not seeing a doctor, they are not seeing a licensed medical doctor? **Ms. Puente replied, that is, when they fill out the forms, they are signing up and all the disclosures are there.** Ms. Peña stated, and please forgive me, but, half the people sign and don't read, because they have a problem understanding. So, I just want to make sure the they actually know that and that's in big letters because we are losing people left and right and I know the mentality is, nobody is going to live forever and sometimes forgive me, I'm going to say it and step on toes, medical professions, well, they are going to die anyway, let's see how much I can get them before they get out of a life. No, I want them to be able to see a doctor at the very beginning, that's just me, because I've seen what's happened and I've seen people whose lives could have been saved if they could have gone a little bit earlier. So, I'm very, very proactive of making sure you see a licensed medical doctor. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Garcia has a question. Mr. Garcia asked, I just want to say I'm glad that BISD has this preventative program measure, not every employee has a doctor, not every employee will go visit a doctor because they are feeling okay and it is during these visits that are made that they find out that they need to go see a doctor. I can tell you that initially, before my health provider was able to withdraw, draw blood, I would see the doctor that same day, so, therefore, because I was on the same day, I didn't have to pay a copay. Now, the medical profession works very different that now, you go get blood draw, you pay a co pay, now, when you get the results, guess what, yeah, you have to go see a doctor and what is it that you have to do, pay a co-pay. So, this preventive measure program, definitely is a plus for our employees and definitely, I'm going to vote for something that our employees are going to benefit that could save their lives. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Garza has a question. Ms. Garza stated, thank you, and as Ms. Pena had said that sometimes some of our employees are going to the doctor when they're already not feeling well, with this preventative program that we have, it will let them know where they need to go and this is what helps our employees. Because many times, we feel okay, because I was an employee who benefited from this program years ago with our district. I feel fine, I'm a healthy lady but because of these test that was done, I had to go see a doctor and then now get myself a family doctor because I was one that would just go to the Day & Night Clinic. So, thanks to this program, I have benefited from this program, so, if it's for our employees, it's going to benefit them, especially we know we have a lot of employees that refuse to go to doctors for whatever reason it may be, maybe it's the copay, for whatever it is. But, if they are able to get this free of service on their behalf and if they choose then to go to Mexico to show their results to a doctor, you know, because many of our employees do, do that. Because they rather go pay a cheaper amount over there with cheaper prescription, so, I am for anything that benefits our employees to keep them healthy. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, we will now start with rebuttals, Mr. Elizondo goes first. Mr. Elizondo asked, yes, real quick, I have something for the, well, maybe you can answer it, our, the 4,950 employees that use this service, were the administrators incentivized for them pushing their employees to go and get this blood drawn? **Ms. Puente replied, this is promoted, it is emailed to everybody, I send it to the principals and they forward it to their employees as an option.** Mr. Elizondo asked,

so specific, my question, were they incentivized for forcing their employees to go get these? **Ms. Puente replied, there are incentives for the campus sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so they are being incentivized to tell their employees to go get this blood drawn? **Ms. Puente replied, they are incentivized.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and its on a volunteer basis or is it a voluntold basis? **Ms. Puente replied, it's a volunteer sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, second question is, you said 4,950 individuals that got these checks done. **Ms. Puente stated, yes.** Mr. Elizondo asked, how many of those went to see their clinician after they got their bloods drawn? **Ms. Puente replied, I don't have the information right now sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, could we maybe find out to see if there was actually a cost savings for our tax payers? Because ultimately, I'm here for one reason, to save the district money and the way I see this program is a duplication of services, its already being offered by our major medical. So, when we have duplication of services, that means that we are wasting money one place or another. I didn't know that individuals here has used the service before, but, if I was to use the service and not go to the doctor, maybe, but if I'm going to use the service and not have to go pay a co-pay, then you see the duplication of services? So, there is really no savings for the school district of our tax payers, that's my number one concern. Second is, how much is the actual cost for these tests, because this is what you sell it to the district, I mean, I know most of these because I'm in the medical field, but these are a little inflated to the cost of what you would get it at a physician's office or clinicians office. So, ultimately, where is the savings to the district if we are paying inflated prices for labs that can be used or done in a clinician's office? **Ms. Puente stated, the cost, and again, what we have is what was provided by the vendor and you have that in your backup, in terms of the price.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm not speaking on the vendors behalf ma'am, I know that may be your job, my job is to speak on the behalf of the taxpayers. *Mr. Castillo interjected,* so just so, for parliamentary procedure, the time has past already but the way we have been doing, they are able to answer the question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, just go ahead and follow up because then we do have another follow up. Mr. Elizondo asked, so then, my question still stands, what is the price that we would get a full chemistry panel individual health management screen at a physician's office compared to the 75 dollars that we would pay this 3rd party administrator, this 3rd party company? **Ms. Puente replied, so, there is, this is a one-time service for all employees, if they use it and they benefit from it and from there they decide that they, they determine that they need to see their doctor, they can do that. Yes, and I only a doctor can tell what the next steps are, if an employee gets the results and decides or opts not to take action, that's their (inaudible).** Mr. Elizondo interjected, can I ask my question again, maybe? **Ms. Puente stated, certainly.** Mr. Elizondo asked, where is the savings between the 75 dollars that this company is charging the school district compared to the same tests that a clinician would do at a lower rate? Where is that savings for the district and our taxpayers? It's cheaper if I go to the doctor than it would be cheaper if I go, I know you are nodding your head yes, I mean, no, I know for a fact the price is, let her answer. **Ms. Puente replied, okay, again, what I provided for you as the backup is the information that was provided to us, so in terms of the savings, even when you compare to United, which did not submit a proposal for this, but you can compare the partial lipid, full lipid, venipuncture per participant, that is the cost savings that we would have.** Mr. Elizondo stated, ma'am, its okay, you can answer I don't know and I would be okay with that. **Ms. Puente stated, I am answering the question sir, based on the information that I have.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so the number, the question still stands, the number of savings to the district and if you do know, what is that number, 75

dollars to the district going to a clinician paying X amount, what is that X amount? If I go get the same, I'll make it easy, the PSA, so that way its not that hard. Ms. Gonzalez interjected, I'm sorry Ms. Pena, hold on. Mr. Elizondo continued, cause the other ones a battery of question, so my question still stands, what is the savings to the district if I go to the clinician compared if I pay the 30, 25 dollars here? **Ms. Puente replied, 15 dollars sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, 15 dollars, okay, 15 dollars. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, Ms. Peña, you have 2 minutes. Ms. Peña stated, yes, and I know where we said, some of my colleagues here, we don't even have a doctor, you know, went to a clinic, the clinics, especially Day & Night clinics, they've saved a lot of people's lives and I can sit here and tell you that I am alive because they saved my life and they are medical doctors. Yes, they have PA's, but they licensed medical doctors and my thing is, why have them go to a place that doesn't have a licensed medical doctor? Lets just go straight to the doctor, I have a huge issue and in 2023, my goodness, the greed for 3rd party services are going crazy, consultants, please forgive me, going crazy. Because they know that they can come in and make them pay another fee that they don't have to, I'm here for the employee, you don't have to, go straight to the clinic, go straight to the doctor, they will save your life. And believe it or not, those clinics do blood tests, you don't have to go do a blood test over there and then a blood test over here and it makes sense, right? Because if somebody goes to a doctor, I want to do the test myself, I want to make sure and sometimes, they were able to say, you know what, they were wrong over there, I'm right here or maybe the (inaudible) will say, no, the doctor was wrong over there, we are right here. My thing is, I have a big issue, we don't need 3rd party administrators, we don't, we need to send them straight to the doctor, we need to do that, we owe them that, we owe our taxpayers that and not give them a big slap over here and "a ver que te sale". You can't do that to todays life and to people's lives, there are people that need it immediately and to convince them to go to this pitstop because somebody is getting some kind of incentive, its heartbreaking to our lives because some of this stuff is life and death. And we are giving them a, I need you to pivot here and get checked there, no maam, go straight over there, I need you alive and healthy. For that reason, I am not for the 3rd party administrators, they are not needed, yes, they have a career, yes, they have to make a living but not at the expense of our tax payers, that's just me. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Peña, before we vote, I just wanted to add, really, oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Garcia, go ahead, 2 minutes sir. Mr. Garcia stated, we don't send the employees to the doctors. **Ms. Puente stated, correct.** Mr. Garcia stated, we don't send employees to the preventive clinics. **Ms. Puente stated, correct.** Mr. Garcia stated, we only make them aware of what's available. **Ms. Puente stated, that is correct, that is their choice.** Mr. Garcia asked, by going to a doctor doesn't necessarily mean that they are going to be cheaper on their bloodwork as to the, these clinics, is that correct? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Garcia stated, so we promote these clinics for our employees to go out there so that they can have a checkup, that's pretty much all it is, bloodwork that is done that this could save their lives. This is what its all about. **Ms. Puente interjected, yes sir.** Mr. Garcia continued, to me, its yes, it costs money, businesses are there to make money and to me, the health of the employees is very important, to me saving the life of those employees is very important and this is a choice that they have and therefore, that is why I'm voting for this, yes. So, that's it, its just pretty much a comment that definitely, I'm supporting our employees, this is nothing new, I've gone through this, I've been part of this when I worked in the civilian, well, when I worked, I had a job and now, well, I still am able to do that if I need to do that. And like I said, before, I could go and get my bloodwork done the same day, see the doctor that afternoon, no longer is that the case and

definitely, we continue on paying those deductibles, something that we can't get around. *Mr. Castillo interjected, time sir.* Mr. Garcia added, but we continue with this, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Mr. Garcia, before we move on to vote, just, I just want to, just a quick comment to Ms. Zarate, I do want to thank you for being available for me today, I do know I showed up at the office unannounced, I do apologize for that, but thank you for being available to answer any and all questions for all of us. Mr. Ortiz does have something before we vote. Mr. Ortiz asked, I have the same issues as I had earlier, but a question for you, are there school incentives for this? **Ms. Puente replied, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, what type of incentives do we have from them? **Ms. Puente replied, they are gift cards for the campuses.** Mr. Ortiz asked, and only the employees that use these services get the incentives or the whole school. **Ms. Puente replied, it's for the whole school.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Pat, you ready? **Ms. Perez asked, all in favor, all opposed.** Ms. Peña interjected, I don't believe in incenting people to send to the doctor, I'm sorry, or non-doctors. **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes, 4 yes, 3 no.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, to recommend awarding CSP #24-112 Third Party Services, Preferred Organization for Self-Funded BISSD Employee Benefit Plan, Wellness and Disease Management for the Wellness portion, to U Matter, LLC of San Antonio, Texas. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the district. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia
Nay: Mr. Elizondo, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Pena
Abstain:

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

VIII. Announcement(s):

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, next up is announcements, quick reminder that we are still in early voting, please remember to go vote. And I do want to thank, since this is, I believe we are done with insurance after today so I just want to quickly thank Ms. Zarate, our EBC committee, we do have the chairperson here, Valley Risk Counseling, thank you guys for all that you do. Purchasing Department, thank you.

IX. Adjournment.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member interjected, ma'am, really quick, the voting is for what? Ms. Gonzalez stated, the early voting that's going on right now, there's propositions on the ballot, there's our TRE also is on the ballot. Mr. Elizondo stated, I just want to make sure of that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, yes, it's so important they go out. **Ms. Perez asked, all in favor?** Mr. Elizondo interjected, yay, it's about the only yea you are going to get from me today.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez, Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting at 6:40 P.M.

- There being no further business appearing before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)
(AUDIO/VIDEO TAPES OF THE OPEN MEETING AND THE WRITTEN CERTIFIED AGENDA
OF THE CLOSED MEETING ARE ON FILE)

Approved by: _____
Jessica Gonzalez, President of the Board
Date

Attested by: _____
Denise Garza, Secretary of the Board
Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees
Administration
Board Attorney
Staff Attorney
Speaker/Presenter

(Minutes presented at Rescheduled Board Meeting held on April 9, 2024)