

City picks NCI to run detox center

Written by By Babette Herrmann Sun Editor
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Gallup City Council voted Sept. 22 to accept its purchasing department's recommendation of awarding Na' Nizhoozhi Center, Inc., as the entity that will take charge of the Gallup Detox Center, effective Oct. 1.

The city had to issue an emergency Request for Proposals after they received a letter from the Navajo Nation stating they were terminating the agreement to run the facility Oct. 3. NCI will run the detox center for at least five months, starting Oct. 4 at an estimated cost of more than \$400,000.

Purchasing departments often weigh RFPs on what entity will serve as both the lowest and most qualified bidder. Qualifications, not amount, gauges the decision making.

Three other entities threw their hat into the ring.

MorningStar Healthcare Services came in as the lowest bidder, asking for a mere \$175,000 through the end of February. Care66 specified that they would need nearly \$800,000 to run the center. Native American Behavioral Health Services requested \$225,000 per month for five months, which would cost the city in excess of more than \$1.1 million.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kevin Foley of NCI has to obtain insurance for the facility prior to take over. NCI ran the detox center prior to the tribe taking the reins.