



# COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

950 Maidu Ave.  
Nevada City, California  
95959

*Agency Director*  
*Ryan Gruver*

Telephone (530) 265-1627  
Fax (530) 265-2295

Department Directors  
Phebe Bell, MSW, Behavioral Health  
Jill Blake, Public Health  
Mike Dent, MPA, Child Support Services / Collections / Housing &  
Community Services Division  
Rachel Roos, Social Services

## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

---

**MEETING DATE:** August 11, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Mike Dent**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a Renewal Contract with Foothills House of Hospitality, d/b/a Hospitality House for funding to provide Recuperative Care and Low-Barrier services to eligible participants in the maximum amount of \$260,000 for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Funding is from the Housing and Community Services Division's allocated funds and from an agreement with Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Funds are within the FY 2020/21 budget and there are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** Funds will be used to provide 15 Low-Barrier Shelter (LBS) beds per night, of which four (4) shall be reserved for the Recuperative Care Services Program (RCP) supporting the needs of eligible homeless patients upon discharge from Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH).

### **Recuperative Care Program:**

Individuals experiencing homelessness typically experience high rates of behavioral health disorders, chronic illness and acute injuries. As a result, such individuals commonly experience frequent hospitalizations and Emergency Department ("ED") visits. This is particularly apparent in western Nevada County, where Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH) serves as the sole hospital and ED. Valuable hospital resources are expended treating people experiencing homelessness who are discharged to the street with a doctor's recommendations to recover and recuperate. Lacking basic shelter, homeless individuals frequently find themselves quickly returning to the hospital due to inadequate recovery and rest, unstable or unsanitary living situations, and inability to access primary care.

The RCP provides 4 dedicated shelter beds, the equivalent of 120 bed-days per month (30 days per beds x 4 beds) to eligible homeless individuals referred to the Program by SNMH. During their stay in the Program, participants will develop a housing plan and stay connected to their primary care physician while recuperating.

**Low-Barrier Shelter:**

Hospitality House traditionally has operated under a “High-Barrier” shelter model which includes policies that are considered by HUD and HCD to impose “barriers” that limit the ability of certain homeless individuals from accessing the shelter. This model existed based on limited resources and staffing limitations. For example, Hospitality House shelter guests are required to breathalyze, pass drug tests, not have any pets, and be cleared by the Grass Valley Police to be able to stay. For many guests, these barriers are not an issue, but for some these barriers mean they cannot access shelter services. Providing a low-barrier option that removes these barriers for a limited number of guests will allow for individuals who have traditionally not accessed the shelter to seek shelter and engage in services.

In 2017, the County worked with Hospitality House to fund implementation of a low-barrier model, providing a minimum of 11 low-barrier beds. These beds are accessed through a separate entrance after the traditional shelter has conducted its normal intake of traditional guests. Those who access low-barrier are not intermingled with the traditional shelter population. This is to ensure that shelter guests who are in recovery or otherwise sober are not impacted adversely by low-barrier guests. Low-barrier guests are provided dinner and have access to a separate restroom.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it will continue the improved recovery rate of ill and injured homeless individuals; reduce the burden placed on valuable medical resources, and transition individuals toward permanent housing solutions.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Mike Dent, Director of Child Support, Housing and Community Services

