



NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with SPIRIT - Peers for Independence and Recovery, Inc. in the maximum amount of \$190,698 for Fiscal Year 2020/21 for operation of SPIRIT's Mental Health Peer Empowerment Center and related services for the enhancement and expansion of services to meet unmet community needs as a component of the County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services are fully funded from MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) monies made available to Behavioral Health. The Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) provides an ongoing revenue source for the transformation and enhancement of mental health services as provided by State and County agencies. Services are included in the Department's fiscal year 2020/21 budget. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: Continuation of services under this Agreement is for the enhancement and expansion of services to meet unmet community needs as a component of the County's MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan. This funding supports the operations of the SPIRIT Peer Empowerment Center, a peer-driven community support center that offers free drop-in services and classes that support participants as they identify their path to recovery and empower themselves to achieve their personal goals. One of the key populations that SPIRIT Peer Empowerment Center supports are those experiencing homelessness, including offering more basic services such as showers and laundry in addition to empowerment and recovery focused support. SPIRIT has demonstrated success in engaging

individuals experiencing homelessness who do not participate in traditional services such as shelter through Hospitality House. Under this agreement SPIRIT, will continue to:

- ❖ Provide One-on-one Peer Counseling for those over eighteen years of age, offering a number of theme-specific peer support/self-help groups geared to strengthen recovery. Services are provided without cost to clients in a confidential, emotionally safe, client-centered environment. Individual peer support is available on a drop-in basis. Services are available to individuals who may be unable or unwilling to access traditional services or cannot otherwise afford counseling or psychotherapy.
- ❖ Provide services that support existing mental health services and reach out to the community to provide education about mental health services, and mental health illness to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
- ❖ Engage those experiencing homelessness by offering basic services including showers and laundry, in addition to engaging this population in peer support to identify and achieve their identified goals.
- ❖ Provide Outreach to both the unserved and the underserved individuals with mental health difficulties that will promote healing through a supportive environment that provides support, empowerment and the development of life skills to reduce their personal suffering and increase their quality of life.
- ❖ Provide training to Peer Support Staff and individuals that seek to empower themselves in interacting with the media, potential employers and other community agencies. Participants will be provided instruction and assistance to learn how to compile a resume, participate in a job interview, conduct and organize fundraising events, create brochures and marketing tools, and ultimately enable individuals to interact with the business community.
- ❖ Provide services that support existing mental health services and reach out to the community to provide education regarding mental health services and mental health illness to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
- ❖ Provide referrals to community resources, including mental health services and support individuals to connect to referred resources.

The economic ramifications of the Coronavirus pandemic are significantly impacting major funding sources relied on by the department. Behavioral Health is monitoring the situation closely and is actively involved in advocacy efforts through the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) to ensure reasonable funding for county services. Additionally, the department has reviewed the 20-21 budget carefully and areas for reduction have been identified to reduce the pressure on existing funding sources. At the same time, demand for behavioral health services is likely to increase over coming months due to both the economic stress and social isolation of this time, as well as due to increasing numbers of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in our county. The department is proposing to move forward with critical contracts at levels similar to what was originally budgeted, but with the understanding that midyear reductions may be necessary if revenues continue to decline. Behavioral Health staff are in close communication

with all contractors and have provided support to them around modifying their processes and protocols so that staff can remain safe and community members can safely get the care they need. Staff are also working closely with providers to increase productivity so that we can continue to maximize our ability to draw down federal funds. Providers are aware that midyear cuts may be needed if the economic situation worsens. Additional analysis and review will be done as needed throughout the year. This contract does not rely on general funds and Behavioral Health's current anticipated revenues along with fund balances are sufficient to support this contract at this time.

It is recommended that the Board approve this renewal agreement as it supports an innovative program that works to increase access to the underserved, helps to improve outcomes for participants, promotes education and individual advocacy and provides resource and referral guidance.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Phebe Bell, MSW – Behavioral Health Director