



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)

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September 10, 2015

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Eric Rood Administrative Center  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 13, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of the Contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for development and implementation including providing staffing for a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in the maximum amount of \$646,434 for fiscal year 2015/16.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Funding to support this Agreement includes guaranteed-bed fees from Sierra Nevada Memorial- Miners Hospital (SNMH), patient revenues for treatment including Medi-Cal and private insurance reimbursement, and department realignment. The contract maximum is \$646,434 for fiscal year 2015/16. Services are within the department's F/Y 2015/16 budget, and there are no County general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** The County does not currently have a Crisis Stabilization Unit, Crisis Residential, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), or Psychiatric Inpatient Unit located within the County to meet residents' needs. The nearest inpatient psychiatric facility is over 40 miles away. The County and its stakeholders have identified the need and advocated for the expansion of the County's System of Care to include the development of a Crisis Stabilization Unit where individuals can receive crisis services, including psychotherapy and medication services for up to 23 consecutive hours per event, in order to prevent further decompensation and the need for acute inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. The development of this local Crisis Stabilization Unit will greatly benefit and expand our existing continuum of care by offering a safe, community-based alternative to psychiatric inpatient services.

Per Resolutions No. 15-067 and 15-068, the Board of Supervisors approved the Operational and the Ground Lease Agreements with Sierra Nevada Memorial-Miner Hospital for the purpose of establishing a

four-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit to be located on hospital grounds.

The County issued a RFP (Request for Proposals) related to retaining a Contractor to operate, in coordination with the Nevada County Behavioral Health Department, a Crisis Stabilization Unit 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week (24/7). Under the County's RFP Process, the Contract was awarded to Sierra Mental Wellness Group. For over 40 years, Sierra Mental Wellness Group has been providing comprehensive mental health services in Placer County and has contracted for a number of years with Nevada County for the provision of quality crisis intervention services such as crisis assessments and arranging for clients to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals on both an involuntary and voluntary basis.

Under this Agreement, Sierra Mental Wellness Group will provide management and oversight of the Crisis Response Team (CRT) and the CSU. The Contractor will provide staffing to meet all criteria for Medi-Cal billing certification standards, as well as maintaining a documented staffing plan for the CSU that covers staffing strategies for business hours, after hours and weekends. A full-time Registered Nurse (RN), Psychiatric Technician, or Licensed Vocation Nurse of the Contractor will be on site at all times beneficiaries are present. In addition, at a minimum, there shall be a ratio of at least one licensed mental health or waived/ registered professional on site for up to four clients receiving Crisis Stabilization Services. Eligibility criteria for admission of a client to the CSU include:

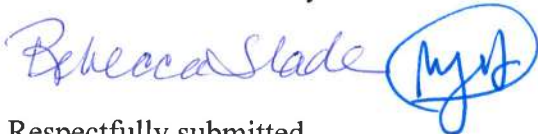
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- At risk of needing psychiatric hospitalization;
- Discharged or transferred (while on a 5150 hold) from the Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), and determined to be both medically cleared of any need for inpatient medical procedures and medically appropriate for the CSU; Clients may be admitted to the CSU while on a 5150. This could be during times the CRT is in the process of finding a psychiatric bed; and admission assessments by the CRT will consider the client's psychiatric stability and any indications that the client is a danger to self or others prior to placement in the CSU.

For persons experiencing behavioral health crises, a competent crisis response system such as will be provided by this CSU is able to:

- Improve access to the most appropriate treatment resources, and decrease the utilization of hospital emergency departments, jails and homeless programs for behavioral health emergencies;
- Provide timely aid to de-escalate the crisis episode and stabilize patients quickly and assist them to return to their pre-crisis level of functioning;
- Reduce the number of days of inpatient hospital stays and costs; and
- Increase patients' ability to receive treatment within their community and to engage in local support systems.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as contracted services will provide an essential resource for Nevada County families and many community agencies, and serve as an alternative option to longer, more expensive hospitalization services.

Please contact me if any additional information is required.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Slade" followed by a circular monogram containing the letters "MFT".

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Slade, MFT  
Interim Director of Behavioral Health  
RS/cs