



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services
Agency Director
Ryan Gruver**

**Behavioral Health Director:
Phebe Bell, MSW**

**Behavioral Health Medical Director:
Aubrey Eubanks, M.D.**

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

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 26, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing participation in the Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health – Quality Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is responsible for administering the State Behavioral Health – Quality Improvement Program (BH-QIP) funding. The Nevada County Behavioral Health Department (NCBH) is eligible for up to \$730,089 of funding from DHCS between 7/1/21 and 6/30/24. Funding is available in installments on a schedule set by DHCS over this three-year period as NCBH reaches certain programmatic milestones.

BACKGROUND:

The role and responsibilities of county behavioral health programs has grown significantly. We must build adequate networks, manage contracts, credential providers, administer benefits, authorize medically necessary services, pay claims, oversee quality, respond to complaints, and conduct other activities required by the federal managed care rules – many of these federal managed care requirements are new. Behavioral health providers are also newer to the practices of data collection, performance measurement, and reporting. CalAIM will address some of these challenges by simplifying state requirements, integrating Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) contracting, and reforming how the county is paid by the state (and how we then pay providers); however many counties, including Nevada, do not yet have the tools to function in this environment. County behavioral health programs have historically depended upon categorical grant funding to enhance their infrastructure and, as a result face technology challenges, including manual data reporting systems and inconsistent coding and billing systems.

DHCS recognizes that, in order to better prepare for these changes, counties need additional funding and technical assistance and has developed the BH-QIP program to help. Because this funding is allocated per County, there is not a standalone contract to be signed, but rather an Initial Funding Request and Certification form that serves as an agreement to use the funding to support the key areas of implementation including hiring consultants to assess current systems and staffing, help guide County Behavioral Health through the contracting process with the managed care plans, payment reform, electronic health record changes, and changes to data tracking and utilization. The funding is distributed over a three-year period in accordance with a schedule DHCS has set and as each county achieves certain milestones in the implementation of CalAIM. To access allocated funds at these milestone intervals, the County will submit Program Funding Claiming Forms.

It is recommended that the Board approve this resolution, authorizing the Behavioral Health Director and County Auditor-Controller to certify the DHCS funding requests and certification forms to allow Nevada County to access this critical funding stream.

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