



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: **Phebe Bell**
SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing execution of Amendment 1 to the Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program to adjust hourly rates and budget within the existing contract maximum. (RES 22-363)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services are funded with Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BH-QIP) funding received from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). There is no change to contract maximum. There are no County general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: On July 12, 2022 per Resolution RES 22-363, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved execution of Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program.

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. California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (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.

CalMHSA is a Joint Power Authority representing County Behavioral Health Departments under the authority of the Government Code. CalMHSA has been identified as a key partner of the Department of Healthcare Services in implementing CalAIM behavioral health elements. Through this contract, CalMHSA will provide the below-described projects to support County Behavioral Health Plans in meeting select Milestones required to complete the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) deliverables. Projects are responsive to the BHQIP requirements under the following categories:

- Payment Reform – CalMHSA will work with NCBH to draft updated boilerplate contract language to incorporate new code sets and claiming requirements
- Policy Changes – CalMHSA will draft updated Utilization Management protocol
- Data Exchange

This amendment provides Behavioral Health with flexibility in expending the contract. It shifts all remaining unspent funds into one pool or bucket versus an amount designated for each service/category with no ability to fluctuate. Behavioral Health will now have the ability to request the hours as needed in any category without limitation, other than contract maximum. Additionally, it removes the variety in rate based on the category requested and instead is a flat \$200 an hour.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment, to provide Nevada County with the necessary administrative support to achieve the CalAIM BHQIP milestones and deliverables.

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