



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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

Michael Heggarty, MFT
Interim Agency Director

**Behavioral Health Interim
Director:**
Rebecca Slade, MFT

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

500 CROWN POINT CIRCLE, STE. 120

GRASS VALLEY CALIFORNIA 95945

TELEPHONE (530) 265-1437

10075 LEVON AVE., STE 204

TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA 96161

FAX (530) 271-0257

TELEPHONE (530) 582-7803

FAX (530) 582-7729

January 22, 2015

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

DATE OF MEETING: February 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of the Operational Agreement between the County of Nevada and Sierra Nevada Memorial-Miners Hospital pertaining to the provision of crisis stabilization services on the Sierra Nevada-Miners Hospital Campus.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funding to purchase, design and furnish a modular building that will serve as a four-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) on hospital grounds is fully-funded from Senate Bill (SB) 82, the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013, which is comprised of state general funds and MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) administrative dollars that have been awarded to the department under a California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) grant. Behavioral Health will fund the ongoing project operational costs from Medi-Cal, private insurance, County realignment, MHSA funds, guaranteed-bed fees from SNMH, and patient payment revenues received for treatment of patients in the CSU. The Agreement term is from the date of full execution remaining in effect until June 30, 2035.

As outlined in the attached Operational Agreement, the County will purchase certain services related to operation of the CSU from the hospital such as meals/nutritional services, environmental services, security, utilities, and psychiatry telemedicine services, which are annually estimated to cost \$302,615. The hospital is agreeing to reimburse the County \$240,000 annually for the guarantee of three (3) dedicated beds in the CSU. The payment obligations of each party will be revised annually, based on actual project costs and revenues of the immediate prior year. The projected annual net cost to the County for all expenditures related to the operation of the CSU is estimated to be \$427,425, which will be offset by the anticipated reduction for the need for longer, more expensive inpatient hospitalization services and other mental health contracted services. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: As a result of SB 82, known as the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013, California has an opportunity to use funding to expand crisis services statewide that are expected to lead to improved outcomes for the individuals served and improved system outcomes for local communities and their community partners. The development of a Crisis Stabilization Unit will greatly benefit and expand our existing continuum of care by offering a safe, community-based alternative to psychiatric inpatient services. We do 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 Nevada County Behavioral Health Crisis Team has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of 5150 evaluations for involuntary psychiatric holds during the last several years. There has also been a correspondingly significant increase in mental health patients accessing the Emergency Department in the last three (3) years. As the only Emergency Department in the western county service area, nearly 700 psychiatric emergency consultations took place at SNMH in 2013. This has resulted in an increased length of waits for patients for 5150 evaluations/assessments in the Emergency Department. The number of requested 5150 assessments has increased by 42% from 2011 to 2013, and other mental health consultations have increased by 18%. A patient's stay in the Emergency Department is additionally extended if inpatient hospitalization is deemed necessary, as placement arrangements and transport to an out of county psychiatric inpatient facility needs to be arranged. As there is a statewide shortage of psychiatric inpatient beds, it can often be a time consuming process to find an appropriate placement option for the patient.

Representatives from County departments and Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital have been meeting regularly to cooperatively plan development of this CSU, which both parties strongly support. The hospital representatives identified a continuing need to provide relief for the hospital emergency department dealing with individuals in crisis by creating additional treatment capacity and diverting individuals in crisis to appropriate levels of care from the emergency department.

This CSU would provide brief psychiatric intervention services lasting less than 24 hours, for persons 18 and older, who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis, and would include serving individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders. The services provided will include a physical and mental health assessment, collateral, and therapy services and will utilize a physician's assessment and medical backup, nursing, and crisis peer counseling services. The goal of crisis stabilization is to avoid the need for longer inpatient hospitalization services which if the symptoms are not treated present an imminent concern to the client or others, and increases the risk of the client becoming gravely disabled.

This Operational Agreement is to establish the financial arrangement and delineate the roles and responsibilities of each party related to operation of the CSU. The County will be responsible for: purchase of the modular building as well as all furniture/equipment, operational oversight including: staffing (which will be provided by a qualified contract provider), billing for crisis stabilization services, developing processes and procedures for admission, discharge and treatment interventions, reserving three beds for SNMH, and ensuring compliance of the CSU in accordance to state regulations/guidelines. The Hospital shall provide medical screening exams, meals/nutritional services, environmental services including cleaning of rooms, linens, admit kits, security, psychiatry telemedicine, and utilities for 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.

This project 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. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Agreement as the project will help mental health consumers stabilize, and support their recovery and wellness in a safe, secure community-based environment.

Please contact me if any additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Slade, MFT
Interim Director of Behavioral Health

RS/cs