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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Rachel Peña**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Sierra Family Therapy Centers, Inc. for the provision of psychotherapy services for veterans of Nevada County in the maximum amount of \$91,744 for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The State allotted Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prop 63 to the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to enhance the effectiveness of referrals to County Veteran Service Offices for veterans who present with mental health issues. Services will be funded from Community Services and Supports dollars received from the State as a component of the County's approved MHSA Plan. Contract services were planned for in the FY 2025/26 Department budget there are no county general fund requirements for this agreement.

BACKGROUND: Veterans and their families have historically had higher levels of mental health problems as compared to the general population, and research has long shown that the rate of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder occurring in combat veterans is significant. Veterans with a Military-Related Psychological Trauma diagnosis often have limited options and long waits for receiving services from the VA, and the Sierra Family Therapy Center will fill in the gaps of services available for this population as a key component of the Nevada County Veterans Services Office Veteran Outreach & Wellness Program.

The CDVA Prop 63 is a competitive grant that Nevada County has received continuously since FY 2018/19. During FY 2019/20, this grant opportunity was transferred from an annual competitive grant to a bi-annual funding opportunity. Nevada County was awarded a two-year grant in FY 2020/21 and has once again been awarded this state funded opportunity for FY 2024/25 and 2025/26. Nevada County Veterans Service Office will again contract with Sierra Family Therapy Center to perform mental health outreach throughout the county and provide therapy to veterans and their family members. Through partnership with multiple divisions of Nevada County Department of Social Services, Nevada County Department of Behavioral Health,

Nevada County Court System, community-based organizations, and local hospitals, the Veterans Outreach & Wellness Program will continue to connect veterans to appropriate services for support and treatment.

It is recommended that the Board approve this renewal contract, as the services provided assist veterans with obtaining access to free and confidential mental health services when access to VA mental health resources is limited locally.

Approved by: Rachel Peña, LCSW Director of Social Services