



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution approving Agreement 23-79010-000 with the California Department of State Hospitals to support a collaborative community stakeholder workgroup focused on developing and implementing local solutions that target the reduction of the number of individuals with serious mental illness arrested and incarcerated for behavior connected to their illness in the amount of \$500,000 for the contract term of July 1, 2023 through June 20, 2028.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The funding is from the California Department of State Hospitals to implement a pilot diversion program for individuals who have been found or have potential to be found incompetent to stand trial. A budget amendment will be included when the expenditure contracts are brought before the board for approval.

BACKGROUND: The Department of State Hospitals (DSH) recognizes the significance of a collaborative community model in serving individuals with serious mental illness who are involved with the justice system. A specific focus area of this initiative is the reduction of Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) cases. Over the past five years, Nevada County system partners specific focus area of this initiative is the reduction of Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) cases. Over the past five years, Nevada County system partners have actively engaged in working together under the umbrella of the Stepping Up initiative. This workgroup is dedicated to the development and implementation of local solutions aimed at diminishing the occurrence of individuals with serious mental illness being arrested and incarcerated due to behaviors associated with their condition efforts to support mental health stability, address housing needs, provide substance use treatment, facilitate re-entry, and deliver a range of services geared towards reducing the number of individuals with serious

mental illness arrested and incarcerated for behavior linked to their condition

Participating entities in this collaborative effort include, but are not limited to, representatives from Nevada County Superior Court, Public Defender, Probation, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, and Behavioral Health. This local collaborative convenes at least monthly, focusing on areas such as Care Court, Incompetent to Stand Trial, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and/or Diversion Court. This collaborative work yielded multiple benefits, including the refinement of existing processes and the preparation for future State mandates like Care Court and Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST). Additionally, these efforts offer a continual opportunity to coordinate efforts directly related to specific individuals who may benefit from immediate services, thereby mitigating potential incarceration or reducing time spent in jail.

This grant from the Department of State Hospitals will support the ongoing efforts of this group. The sustained funding will enable the existing collaborative model to effectively coordinate planning efforts and further reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illness arrested and incarcerated for behaviors linked to their condition.

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