



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**AGENCY**

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** July 28, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Phebe Bell**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing execution of a renewal contract with Stanford Youth Solutions DBA Stanford Sierra Youth & Families for the provision of comprehensive Specialty Mental Health Services, primarily targeted to serve pre- and post-adoptive and guardianship children and their families in the maximum amount of \$994,260 for Fiscal Year 2020/21.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Multiple funding sources are braided together to support these key programs. Services are mainly funded by Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (FFP), 2011 Realignment funds and Mental Health Services ACT (MHSA) monies. Additionally, the contract is supported by PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) annual allocation monies. The services were planned for in the department FY 2020/21 budget and the Agreement requires no county general fund dollars.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under the current contract, Stanford Youth Solutions provides comprehensive specialized mental health and rehabilitation services for children and youth. The primary target population is pre- and post-adoptive and guardianship children and families. The service area includes both Eastern and Western Nevada County. Services focus on issues related to trauma and permanency for those children who have been removed from birth families.

This population is at risk for a range of mental health illnesses and social-emotional behavioral difficulties stemming from negative pre-adoptive experiences. Some of the more common mental health problems that these particular children/youth may be prone to include: depression,

learning/attention problems, low self-esteem, social or peer-related problems, Attention Deficit Disorder, lingering effects of trauma, attachment issues, and risky behavioral problems including alcohol/drug abuse and self-destructive behavior.

Additionally, the contract includes Family Preservation and In-Home Parenting Services. The Family Preservation Program is a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure that families at risk of child abuse and/or neglect or mandatory Child Welfare Services (CWS) intervention, can stay together. The program services are managed and authorized by Behavioral Health; however, Child Welfare Services works closely with the Contractor.

Referrals may come from Nevada County Child Welfare Services (CWS) after originating from schools, community partners, and the CWS Program. All referrals originating from a source other than Child Welfare Services must be approved by CWS designated staff prior to Contractor providing services. The Contractor provides a multi-disciplinary team as the core of this program's service delivery system, consisting of Family Preservation Workers, a Public Health Nurse, a Clinical Therapist, a parent mentor, an Intake Worker, and a Program Supervisor.

The economic ramifications of the Coronavirus pandemic are significantly impacting major funding sources relied on by the department. Behavioral Health is monitoring the situation closely and is actively involved in advocacy efforts through the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) to ensure reasonable funding for county services. Additionally, the department has reviewed the 20-21 budget carefully and areas for reduction have been identified to reduce the pressure on existing funding sources. At the same time, demand for behavioral health services is likely to increase over coming months due to both the economic stress and social isolation of this time, as well as due to increasing numbers of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in our county. The department is proposing to move forward with critical contracts at levels similar to what was originally budgeted, but with the understanding that midyear reductions may be necessary if revenues continue to decline. Behavioral Health staff are in close communication with all contractors and have provided support to them around modifying their processes and protocols so that staff can remain safe and community members can safely get the care they need. Staff are also working closely with providers to increase productivity so that we can continue to maximize our ability to draw down federal funds. Providers are aware that midyear cuts may be needed if the economic situation worsens. Additional analysis and review will be done as needed throughout the year. This contract does not rely on general funds and Behavioral Health's current anticipated revenues along with fund balances are sufficient to support this contract at this time. It is recommended the Board approve this Agreement as it provides for a comprehensive, integrated approach for services that promotes child development and improves outcomes for the successful integration into an adoptive family or guardianship situation as well as encourages family preservation and family reunification when appropriate.

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