



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Contract with O’Connell Research, Inc. to revise Exhibit “A”, to add PATH Justice-Involved round 3 implementation plan and project management, add planning support for developing, and implementing CalAIM, and revise Exhibit “B”, to increase the maximum contract price from \$100,000 to \$125,500 (an increase of \$25,500), for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Behavioral Health Budget for fiscal year 2023/24 (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: This amendment is funded with Providing Access and Transforming Health Supports (PATH) Justice-Involved Round 3 grant funds, awarded to Nevada County Behavioral Health and Nevada County Sheriff’s Office through the Department of Health Care Services. A budget amendment is required and included in this Resolution. There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: On July 11, 2023, per Resolution 23-351, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved the execution of the Contract with O’Connell Research, Inc., to support the Stepping Up collaborative and design the process and flow for CARE Court mandate for Nevada County.

Nevada County’s participation in Stepping Up was brought forward by a collaborative group of County departments including the Sheriff’s Office, Probation, Public Defender, District Attorney, and Behavioral Health. Stepping Up focuses specifically on the data that shows that people with serious mental illness (SMI) are arrested at higher rates, stay longer in jail, and

return to jail more often than people without mental illness. Addressing this disparity and better linking people to treatment instead of incarceration is the primary goal of this initiative.

On January 26, 2023, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received federal approval under its California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) 1115 Demonstration for Providing Access and Transferring Health (PATH) capacity building funds to support the Justice Involved Reentry Initiative. Under the CalAIM 1115 Demonstration, DHCS received approval to disseminate capacity-building funds to support the planning and implementation of pre-release and reentry services in the 90 days prior to an individual's release into the community.

The PATH Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative Capacity Building Program provides funding to support the planning and implementation of the provision of targeted pre-release Medi-Cal services to individuals in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities who meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the CalAIM Section 1115 Demonstration approval. This funding also supports County Behavioral Health Agencies to implement Behavioral Health Linkages as required by AB 133. Nevada County Behavioral Health has been awarded PATH funding to help with implementation and planning for pre and post-release services.

By providing pre-release coordination and post-release services for individuals with SMI we are working towards the goals of improving outcomes for those reentering our community after incarceration and reducing recidivism.

Under this amendment, O'Connell Research will continue to support collaboration between Nevada County Behavioral Health, Sheriff/jail, probation and other collaborative community stakeholders to develop and implement local solutions that reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illness arrested and incarcerated for behavior connected to their illness and local solutions that target the reduction of Felony IST commitments overall within the county, as well as look to the development of CARE court and CalAIM in Nevada County.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment so that Nevada County can meet performance expectations relating to the states' CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative as it allows numerous departments and institutions to work together to improve the functioning of our criminal justice and behavioral health systems to best serve community members who are struggling with mental health and substance use disorder needs.

Item Initiated and Approved by:

Phebe Bell, MSW, Director of Behavioral Health