



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) related to the provision of Latino Outreach Services through the Grass Valley Family Resource Center as a component of the County's MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan in the maximum amount of \$60,000 for FY 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services are funded by MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars. PEI seeks to address disparities of access to mental health services, and to reach unserved/underserved populations such as members of ethnically/racially diverse communities including those unlikely to seek help from traditional mental health services access points. Services were planned for in the Department's FY 2020/21 budget. There are no county general fund dollars required in the contract.

BACKGROUND:

Under this Agreement, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools provides Latino Outreach Services through the Grass Valley Family Resource Center. The targeted focus is the Latino population, a quickly growing population in Nevada County. This population has limited access to Spanish speaking resources, especially mental health services. The Family Resource Center's Promotoras Program employs bicultural and bilingual para-professionals to help Latino families connect to health resources and to offer health education.

The Grass Valley Family Resource Center's Promotoras Program provides mental health outreach and engagement groups for the Latino Community, which are conducted in Spanish.

The Contractor will conduct 16 psycho-educational meetings yearly that will educate people about mental health, attempt to decrease stigma and increase the number of Latinos seeking mental health treatment. The Promotora will use California's SanaMente (Healthy Mind) and Reconozca las Senales (Know the Signs) materials,, W.R.A.P. (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) curriculum, and other evidence-based models. The Promotora will also provide outreach and engagement to Spanish speaking families by meeting them in their homes and communities and will have scheduled advertised hours at the Family Resource Center where he/she will be available to help Spanish speakers access services in the community.

It is expected that the services provided will:

- Increase knowledge of mental health and substance use services and treatment resources available in Nevada County.
- Increase comfort in talking about mental health illnesses and symptoms.
- Increase the comfort in talking about suicide.

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 that the Board approve this renewal Agreement as services address unmet needs and improve access to mental health care for community residents.

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