



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

**Health & Human Services**  
**Agency Director**  
**Ryan Gruver**

**Behavioral Health Director:**  
***Phebe Bell, MSW***

**Behavioral Health Medical Director:**  
***Aubrey Eubanks, M.D.***

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

500 CROWN POINT CIRCLE, STE. 120 GRASS VALLEY CALIFORNIA 95945  
10075 LEVON AVE., STE 204 TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA 96161

TELEPHONE (530) 265-1437  
FAX (530) 271-0257  
TELEPHONE (530) 582-7803  
FAX (530) 582-7729

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

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**MEETING DATE:** March 12, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a Participation Agreement to authorize Nevada County to participate in the California Mental Health Services Authority Connex program for the provision of a managed Interoperability Software as a Services (SaaS) solution for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in the maximum amount of \$222,948 and directs the Auditor-Controller to amend the Behavioral Health Budget for fiscal year 2023/24 (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Services provided under this contract support the Behavioral Health Department in billing Medi-Cal for Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Services, resulting in receipt of Federal Financial Participation revenues. The cost of this contract will be funded by Medi-Cal and Drug Medi-Cal Quality Assurance/Utilization and/or Administration funds, as well as 1991 and 2011 Realignment which are currently accumulated in the Health and Human Services Agency fund 1589. A budget amendment is required and included in this Resolution. There are no county general funds required in the Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule on May 1, 2020. One of the requirements of this Final Rule is that providers make patient data for exchange and for patient access via an application programming interface (API) for any services on or after January 1, 2016.

CalMHSA Connex is a managed Interoperability Software as a Service (SaaS) solution (the "Services") to assist participating counties in meeting state and federal interoperability

requirements. CalMHSA Connex will facilitate the exchange of protected health information (PHI), personally identifiable information (PII) and other information between organizations and will assist Participants in connecting to larger national exchange networks.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Participation Agreement as it will allow Nevada County Behavioral Health to meet state and federal interoperability requirements and will improve data exchange infrastructure for improved patient care.

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