

**AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT for Professional Services ("Agreement") is made as of the Agreement Date set forth below by and between the County of Sierra, a political subdivision of the State of California ("COUNTY"), and

County of Nevada, Department of Behavioral Health
(the CONTRACTOR)

In consideration of the services to be rendered, the sums to be paid, and each and every covenant and condition contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

1. SERVICES.

The CONTRACTOR shall provide those technical assistance services described in Attachment "A," Provision A-1. CONTRACTOR shall provide said services at the time, place and in the manner specified in Attachment "A," Provisions A-2 through A-3.

2. TERM.

Commencement Date: July 1, 2025

Termination Date: June 30, 2028

3. PAYMENT.

COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement at the time and in the amount set forth in Attachment "B." The payment specified in Attachment "B" shall be the only payment made to CONTRACTOR for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall submit all billings for said services to COUNTY in the manner specified in Attachment "B."

4. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER MATERIALS AND OBLIGATIONS OF COUNTY.

CONTRACTOR shall, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all facilities, equipment, and other materials which may be required for furnishing services pursuant to this Agreement, except as provided in this paragraph. COUNTY shall furnish CONTRACTOR only those facilities, equipment, and other materials and shall perform those obligations listed in Attachment "A."

5. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

Those additional provisions unique to this Agreement are set forth in Attachment "C."

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

The general provisions set forth in Attachment "D" are part of this Agreement. Any inconsistency between said general provisions and any other terms or conditions of this Agreement shall be controlled by the other terms or conditions insofar as the latter are inconsistent with the general provisions. The HIPAA Business Associates Agreement, Attachment F is incorporated by this reference.

7. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES.

The Director of Behavioral Health or Designee is the designated representative of the COUNTY and will administer this Agreement for the COUNTY. Phebe Bell, Director of Nevada County Behavioral Health, is the authorized representative for CONTRACTOR. Changes in designated representatives shall occur only by advance written notice to the other party.

8. ATTACHMENTS.

All attachments referred to herein are attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein. Attachments include:

Attachment A - Services
Attachment B - Payment
Attachment C - Additional Provisions
Attachment D - General Provisions
Attachment E - Form of Invoice
Attachment F – Business Associate Agreement
Attachment G – Special Terms and Conditions

9. AGREEMENT DATE. The Agreement Date is July 5, 2025 as approved by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day here first above written.

"COUNTY"

"CONTRACTOR"

COUNTY OF SIERRA

By _____
LEE ADAMS
Chair, Board of Supervisors

HEIDI HALL
Chair, Board of Supervisors
CONTRACTOR TAXPAYER I.D. NUMBER

Submitted Confidentially
(Taxpayer I.D. or Social Security No.)

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

HEATHER FOSTER
Clerk of the Board

KATHARINE L. ELLIOTT
County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ANDREW PLETT
County Counsel

ATTACHMENT A

A.1 SCOPE OF SERVICES AND DUTIES.

The services to be provided by CONTRACTOR and the scope of CONTRACTOR's duties include the following:

Nevada County Behavioral Health, hereinafter referred to as CONTRACTOR, and Sierra County, hereinafter referred to as COUNTY, agree to enter into a specific contract for the provision of services at the Nevada County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).

All services provided under this contract shall be documented in accordance with Short/Doyle Medi- Cal and Managed Care requirements.

Background and Overview

Nevada County Behavioral Health has contracted with Sierra Mental Wellness Group to provide Crisis Stabilization services at the CSU. The four (4) bed CSU is located in Grass Valley, California, 70 feet from the entrance of the Emergency Department of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH). The CSU is part of a crisis continuum of care for residents of Nevada County. Individuals receive crisis services, including psychotherapy, medication services, and psychiatry for up to 23 hours per client event.

County Responsibilities

COUNTY shall establish the process for placement of County clients in the CSU, which will include the County's policies related to medical clearance, medication, discharge planning, and other services necessary for clients to be successful following discharge from the CSU. The COUNTY will develop their own policies and procedures unique to issues related to the County admissions, including transportation and the authorization of services.

1. The COUNTY may authorize CSU services, when CONTRACTOR has verified that a bed is available, for an individual whom Sierra County is taking fiscal responsibility for. Only adults, 18 years and older and who are medically cleared from a physical health provider will be considered by CONTRACTOR for CSU placement. Clients still may be at risk of needing psychiatric hospitalization, including being placed on a 5150 hold. COUNTY will ensure medical clearance by following an established protocol of the CSU for this purpose. COUNTY will send clinical (e.g., 5150, Mental Status Assessment, Medication Administration Record) and medically related information (e.g., lab work, completed Medical Clearance form, drug screen results to the CSU, and a brief history of psychiatric medication administration, including allergies or adverse reactions, if possible). The CSU staff will review this documentation and discuss with the COUNTY and sending facility any need for follow up information before deciding if an admission will be approved. The COUNTY will establish an authorization form and ensure it is completed for every client being requested acceptance at the CSU. It is understood between the parties that CONTRACTOR maintains dedicated beds at the CSU, and may only accept COUNTY clients as capacity allows. Further, it is understood and agreed between the Parties that CONTRACTOR reserves the right to refuse admission of a COUNTY client at CONTRACTOR'S sole discretion.
2. The COUNTY shall arrange transport via ambulance or other approved transport services for individuals on a psychiatric hold from the medical facility to the CSU. The COUNTY shall arrange for voluntary clients, to be transported by other means, such as ambulance, taxi, etc. Transportation following discharge will be arranged in collaboration with the CONTRACTOR, and may include assistance via a Taxi Voucher, CONTRACTOR staff, support person or others. All transportation arrangements and costs are the responsibility of the COUNTY.

3. The COUNTY shall ensure that all prescribed medications of the client will be carried and delivered by the ambulance staff, or other COUNTY-approved transport provider, transporting the client to the CSU. Staff from the sending facility will discuss any unfilled medications with the CSU nurse ahead of time, so as to determine the urgency of filling the medication and administering it in a 23-hour window.
4. The COUNTY shall provide an identified designee for the CSU staff to provide updates, and to gain assistances with accessing necessary services for the client. Any discharges after hours will need a preliminary plan or established protocol of referrals set up ahead of time to ensure that follow up intake/linkage appointment times with Sierra County and other necessary services are available.
5. Although the COUNTY will send a client for crisis stabilization services to the CSU, some clients will continue to meet criteria for a psychiatric hold. The COUNTY will retain chief responsibility of placing 5150 clients in a psychiatric facility.
6. The COUNTY shall arrange for all clients to be discharged from the CSU within 23 hours or safely transferred to another program, including the Insight Respite Center. The CONTRACTOR shall provide any necessary medical or psychiatric treatment, given the constraints of time, insurance, and other potential pitfalls, to support such placements.

Contractor Responsibilities

1. Services rendered pursuant to this Contract shall be provided at the following location: 145 Glasson Way, Grass Valley, California 95945.
2. In accordance with State law and regulations, including CCR Title 9, Sections 1840.338 and 1840.348, the CONTRACTOR, through its Sub-Contractor – Sierra Mental Wellness Group, will offer Crisis Stabilization Services lasting less than 24 hours to address acute psychiatric and/or co-occurring (substance use/mental health) crisis episodes. The CSU will provide mental health stabilization services, which include mental health assessment, medication assessment, psychotherapy, nursing, and case management, to COUNTY referred adult Sierra County residents. The CSU will allow individuals to receive services in the least restrictive setting. Services will promote wellness, resiliency and recovery.
3. The CONTRACTOR hereby represents and warrants that it is currently, and for the duration of this Contract shall remain, certified by Medi-Cal to provide Crisis Stabilization services.
4. All policies of CONTRACTOR and Sub-Contractor - Sierra Mental Wellness Group (SMWG), in relation to services provided by the CSU and the Crisis Team shall also apply to COUNTY's clients, including referrals to the Emergency Department (ED) at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH) for psychiatric or medical emergencies beyond the scope of the CSU.
5. To the extent allowable, CONTRACTOR shall bill Medi-Cal for services and shall be entitled to all permissible reimbursement. CONTRACTOR will create an invoice and bill the COUNTY for the established hourly rate for up to 20 hours per episode.

6. The CONTRACTOR and its Subcontractor will:

- a. Maintain the confidentiality and security of all services and records in compliance with HIPAA and HITECH, to the extent required by law.
- b. Deliver services in compliance with all applicable provisions described under the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- c. Comply with all applicable provisions of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations, entitled Community Mental Health Services under the Bronzan- McCorquodale Act, commencing with Section 5600 of the Welfare and Institutions Code Division 5, entitled Community Mental Health Services, Sections 5000-5803, as amended, Local Mental Health Authority, and other applicable laws, regulations and policies governing the provisions of public Mental Health services.
- d. Consider the client's psychiatric stability and whether the staffing and interventions available to the CSU will meet the psychiatric and behavioral health needs of any proposed Sierra County admissions. This includes whether the environment and support of the CSU specifically is adequate in managing potentially dangerous behavior.
- e. Follow the established procedure of assessing clients throughout their stay at the CSU with regard to determining whether the client needs to be evaluated for a 5150 psychiatric hold or to be placed on an initial 5150 hold. These assessments are completed by the CSU therapist or Nevada County's contracted Sierra Mental Wellness Group (SMWG) Crisis Team. A CSU therapist can only perform this function if they are alternately trained and have worked on the Crisis Response Team (CRT) in Nevada County. The process of rescinding 5150s will occur through the established policy of SMWG, which requires the approval of the psychiatrist on call at the CSU.
- f. Begin discharge planning for the client immediately upon client's arrival to the CSU. The discharge plan, which includes a Recovery Plan and Relapse Prevention Plan, provides a clear outline of both strategies for staying safe and linkages to services with community services. The CONTRACTOR will provide a required discharge packet of documentation (e.g., treatment summary, medications administered, diagnosis, etc.) necessary for the client to access services following discharge to another provider. CONTRACTOR shall not be responsible for the coordination of discharge or discharge planning services on behalf of COUNTY or COUNTY client upon client's discharge from the CSU.
- g. Regularly coordinate with the COUNTY's designee for providing updates on progress and planning of follow-up services.
- h. Comply with documentation standards established by Nevada County for the CSU. Records of each individual client shall include a record of services provided by the various professional personnel in sufficient detail to make possible an evaluation of services, and contain all data necessary to meet Medi-Cal and Medicare requirements. This documentation includes progress notes, assessments, medication logs, and other required documentation.
- i. Utilize the Cerner Behavioral Health Solution Electronic Health Record (EHR) System

functionality that is relevant to the scope of work of this contract. This requirement includes the data collection necessary for the CONTRACTOR to meet billing and, importantly, quality assurance goals.

- j. Comply with staffing requirements that meet criteria for billing Medi-Cal certification standards per California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 9, 1840.348. A full-time Registered Nurse (RN), Psychiatric Technician, or Licensed Vocational Nurse of the CONTRACTOR will be on site at all times beneficiaries are present. A Board-Certified Psychiatrist will be on call daily for a block of 12 hours. This time will be determined by CONTRACTOR as the best time that meets the needs of the clients and staff.

A.2. TIME SERVICES RENDERED.

Work will begin immediately upon execution of this Agreement by the County. Thereafter, CONTRACTOR shall perform services in a diligent and timely manner.

A.3. MANNER SERVICES ARE TO BE PERFORMED.

As an independent contractor, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for providing services and fulfilling obligations hereunder in a professional manner. COUNTY shall not control the manner of performance.

A.4. FACILITIES FURNISHED BY COUNTY.

None

ATTACHMENT B

PAYMENT

COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR as follows:

B.1 BASE CONTRACT FEE. COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR a contract fee not to exceed \$60,000 payable at the rate of \$72.14 per hour up to 20 hours per client admission, all inclusive of room and board, medications and psychiatrist's time. CONTRACTOR shall submit requests for payment (Invoice) on a monthly basis, invoicing for all work completed and delivered to the Director prior to the issuance of such Invoice. Invoice shall be substantially in the form of the invoice attached hereto as Attachment E. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days after the Invoice is approved and accepted by the Auditor. In no event shall total compensation paid to CONTRACTOR under this Provision B.1 exceed \$60,000 without an amendment to this Agreement approved by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

CONTRACTOR shall bill Medi-Cal and any other applicable State, Federal or private sources available at the time services are performed, and shall be solely entitled to all permissible reimbursement. However, CONTRACTOR shall not bill a client directly for any services, such as unmet share of cost, deductibles, etc.

If it is determined, either before or after admission to the Facility, that a Patient is Medi-Cal eligible in another county, it is the responsibility of the COUNTY to notify the county of financial responsibility that one of its Medi-Cal beneficiaries has been admitted to CONTRACTOR's Facility.

It is also the responsibility of the COUNTY to provide documentation of authorization from the responsible county to the CONTRACTOR, who will then bill the county of responsibility as defined above, for reimbursement. Unless the COUNTY has provided CONTRACTOR with documentation of authorization from another county, COUNTY is responsible for payment at the above listed rate for CONTRACTOR's services regardless of a Patient's Medi-Cal eligibility or other insurance.

B.2 MILEAGE. NA

B.3 TRAVEL COSTS. NA

B.4 AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED. Services performed by CONTRACTOR and not authorized in this Agreement shall not be paid for by COUNTY. Payment for additional services shall be made to CONTRACTOR by COUNTY if, and only if, this Agreement is amended in writing by both parties in advance of performing additional services.

B.5 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. None.

B.6 MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT. The maximum amount payable to CONTRACTOR under this Agreement shall not exceed the following:

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|----------|
| B.1 | Base Contract Fee | \$60,000 |
| B.2 | Mileage | 0 |
| B.3 | Travel Costs | 0 |
| B.4 | Authorization Required | 0 |
| B.5 | Special Circumstances | 0 |

MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT

\$60,000

Payments shall be remitted to:
Nevada County Behavioral Health Department
Attention: Fiscal Staff
500 Crown Point Circle, Suite 120
Grass Valley, CA 95945

ATTACHMENT C

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

CULTURAL COMPETENCE:

CONTRACTOR shall provide services pursuant to this Agreement in accordance with current State statutory, regulatory and policy provisions related to cultural and linguistic competence as defined in California State Department of Mental Health (DMH) Information Notice No: 10-02, "The 2010 - Cultural Competence Plan Requirements." COUNTY and CONTRACTOR'S compliance with cultural competence requirements is defined in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 14684(a) (9) as "Each mental health plan shall provide for culturally competent and age-appropriate services, to the extent feasible. The mental health plan shall assess the cultural competency needs of the program. The mental health plan shall include, as part of the quality assurance program required by Section 14725, a process to accommodate the significant needs with reasonable timeliness." Performance outcome measures shall include a reliable method of measuring and reporting the extent to which services are culturally competent and age-appropriate."

REPORTING:

- a. CONTRACTOR agrees to provide COUNTY with reports that may be required by County, State or Federal agencies for compliance with this Agreement.
- b. CONTRACTOR shall submit quarterly progress reports and a final annual report to COUNTY which reflects progress made in implementing the services and achieving the outcomes set forth in Exhibit A, and to assure CONTRACTOR'S compliance with contract terms. Said annual report shall be submitted by August 31 for the preceding fiscal year.
- c. CONTRACTOR shall make annual client outcome information available to COUNTY within 60 days of fiscal year end. Outcome data will be based upon the full array of services provided and how those services advanced the functional improvement of the client. Functional improvement will be measured by the disposition of the client at discharge.

FEDERAL AND STATE ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS:

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable County, State, and Federal laws, rules and regulations. CONTRACTOR shall be required to establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records that accurately account for and reflect all Federal funds received, including all matching funds from the State, COUNTY and any other local or private organizations. CONTRACTOR's records shall reflect the expenditure and accounting of said funds in accordance with all State laws and procedures for expending and accounting for all funds and receivables, as well as meet the financial management standards in 45 CFR Part 92 and in the Office of Management and Budget Super Circular "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards."

RIGHT TO MONITOR AND AUDIT:

Authorized county, state and federal agencies shall have the right to monitor all work performed under this Agreement to assure that all-applicable State and Federal regulations are met. COUNTY, State and Federal Governments shall have the right to audit all work, records and procedures related to this Agreement to determine the extent to which the program is achieving its purposes and performance goals. COUNTY will have the right to review financial and programmatic reports and will notify CONTRACTOR of any potential Federal and/or State exception(s) discovered during such examination. COUNTY will follow-up and ensure

that the CONTRACTOR takes timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies.

CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY:

- a. CONTRACTOR shall comply with all State and Federal statutory and regulatory requirements for certification of claims including Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 438.
- b. CONTRACTOR shall ensure the following for each Medi-Cal beneficiary for whom the CONTRACTOR is submitting a claim for reimbursement:
 - i. An assessment of the Medi-Cal beneficiary was conducted in compliance with the requirements established in the Mental Health Plan (MHP) contract between Nevada County and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), a copy of which will be provided to COUNTY by CONTRACTOR under separate cover.
 - ii. The Medi-Cal beneficiary was eligible to receive Medi-Cal services at the time the services were provided to the beneficiary.
 - iii. The services included in the claim were actually provided to the beneficiary.
 - iv. Medical necessity was established for the beneficiary as defined in statute for the service or services provided, for the timeframe in which the services were provided.
 - v. A client plan was developed and maintained for the beneficiary that met all client plan requirements established in the MHP contract between Nevada County and the DHCS.
- c. CONTRACTOR certifies that it shall comply with all State and Federal requirements regarding false claims and whistleblower protection, including but not limited to California Government Code Sections 8547 et seq. and 12653, and shall not prevent an employee from disclosing information, or retaliate against an employee in any manner because of acts by or on behalf of the employee in disclosing information in furtherance of a false claims action.
- d. CONTRACTOR shall conduct monthly comparisons of all CONTRACTOR employees billing Medi-Cal to the following federal databases for positive name matches: Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) List of Excluded Individual/Entities (LEIE) (www.oig.hhs.gov) and General Services Administration (GSA) Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) (www.epls.gov) or System for Award Management (SAM) Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) (www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM). These monthly checks shall be compiled into a quarterly report and sent to the COUNTY Contract Administrator. Individuals listed in these databases as ineligible to participate in Medicaid or Medicare may not provide services to the County.
- e. In addition, CONTRACTOR certifies that the following processes are in place:
 - i. Written policies, procedures and standards of conduct that articulate the organization's commitment to comply with all applicable Federal and State standards.
 - ii. The designation of a compliance officer and a compliance committee that is accountable to County Compliance Officer to report on adherence to the program senior management.
 - iii. Effective training and education for the compliance officer and the organization's

employees.

- iv. Enforcement of standards through well-publicized disciplinary guidelines.
- v. Provisions for internal monitoring and auditing.
- vi. Provision for prompt response to detected offenses, and for development of corrective action initiatives relating to the provision of mental health services.

STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE:

CONTRACTOR shall perform all services required pursuant to this Agreement in the manner and according to the standards observed by a competent practitioner of the profession in which CONTRACTOR is engaged in the geographical area in which CONTRACTOR practices its profession. All products of whatsoever nature which CONTRACTOR delivers to COUNTY pursuant to this Agreement shall be prepared in a substantial first class and workmanlike manner and conform to the standards or quality normally observed by a person practicing in CONTRACTOR'S profession.

LICENSES, PERMITS, ETC.:

CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that it has all licenses, permits, qualifications, and approvals of whatsoever nature which are legally required for CONTRACTOR to provide services as set forth herein. CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that CONTRACTOR will, at its sole cost and expense, keep in effect or obtain at all times during the term of this Agreement, any licenses, permits, and approvals which are legally required at the time the services are performed.

RECORDS:

- a. This provision is intended to provide the minimum obligations with respect to records. If provisions contained elsewhere in this Agreement, or at law, provide greater obligations with respect to records or information, those obligations control. For purposes of this provision "records" is defined to mean any and all writings, as further defined in California Evidence Code section 250, whether maintained in paper or electronic form, prepared by or received by CONTRACTOR, in relation to this Agreement.
- b. CONTRACTOR shall maintain, at all times, complete detailed records with regard to work performed under this Agreement in a form acceptable to COUNTY. CONTRACTOR agrees to provide documentation or reports, compile data, or make its internal practices and records available to COUNTY or personnel of authorized state or federal agencies, for purpose of determining compliance with this Agreement or other applicable legal obligations. County shall have the right to inspect or obtain copies of such records during usual business hours upon reasonable notice.
- c. Upon completion or termination of this Agreement, COUNTY may request CONTRACTOR deliver originals or copies of all records to COUNTY, which has been prepared by, for, or submitted to COUNTY in relation to this Agreement. COUNTY shall have full ownership and control of all such records, although CONTRACTOR shall be entitled to maintain copies of COUNTY'S records hereunder for internal purposes. If COUNTY does not request all records from CONTRACTOR, then CONTRACTOR shall maintain them for a minimum of four (4) years after completion or termination of the Agreement. If for some reason CONTRACTOR is unable to continue its maintenance obligations, CONTRACTOR shall give notice to COUNTY in sufficient time for COUNTY to take steps to ensure proper continued maintenance of records.
- d. CONTRACTOR shall be subject to the examination and audit of the California State Auditor for a period of three years after final payment under contract (Government Code, Section 8546.7). Should COUNTY or any outside governmental entity require or request a post-contract audit, record review, report, or similar activity that would require CONTRACTOR to expend staff time and/or resources to comply, CONTRACTOR shall be

responsible for all such costs incurred as a result of this activity.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS:

Patients' Rights shall comply with Welfare and Institutions Code Division 5, Section 5325 et seq.; and California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 590 et seq. COUNTY Patients' Rights Advocate shall have access to COUNTY clients by telephone or in person as deemed necessary by Advocate and client. COUNTY Patients' Rights Advocate shall also have access to COUNTY patients' charts during normal business hours to investigate and resolve complaints.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:

- a. In the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR, its agents and employees are, at all times, acting and performing as an independent contractor, and this Agreement creates no relationship of employer and employee as between COUNTY and CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR agrees neither it nor its agents and employees have any rights, entitlement or claim against COUNTY for any type of employment benefits or workers' compensation or other programs afforded to COUNTY employees.
- b. CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for all applicable state and federal income, payroll and taxes and agrees to provide any workers' compensation coverage as required by California State laws.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

CONTRACTOR certifies that its employees and the officers of its governing body shall avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest and that no officer or employee who performs any function or responsibilities in connection with this contract shall have any personal financial interest or benefit that either directly or indirectly arises from this contract. CONTRACTOR shall establish safeguards to prohibit its employees or its officers from using their position for the purpose that could result in private gain or that gives the appearance of being motivated for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have family, business or other ties.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

- a. The Parties agree to maintain confidentiality of information and records as required by applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and rules, including, but not limited to, Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 5328 et seq. and Section 14100.2; the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 42, Section 431.300 et seq.; the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), including, but not limited to Section 1320 D et seq. of Title 42, United States Code and its implementing regulations (including but not limited to Title 45, CFR, Parts 142, 160, 162, and 164); and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (the "HITECH Act"), and any current and future regulations promulgated under HIPAA or HITECH, and further agrees to hold the other harmless from any breach of confidentiality, as set forth in the hold harmless provisions contained herein. CONTRACTOR ensures that any subcontractors' agents receiving health information related to this Agreement agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to CONTRACTOR with respect to such information.

NONDISCRIMINATION:

During the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, including the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Fair Employment and Housing Act, and will not discriminate against employees, applicants or clients because of race, sex, sexual orientation, color, ancestry, religion or religious creed, national origin or ethnic group identification, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition (including cancer, HIV and AIDS), age (over 40), marital status, or use of Family and Medical Care Leave and/or Pregnancy Disability Leave in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant is qualified.

ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTING:

Except as specifically provided herein, the rights, responsibilities, duties and services to be performed under this Contract, are personal to the CONTRACTOR. COUNTY acknowledges that certain services under this Agreement shall be provided by CONTRACTOR'S Sub-Contractor, Sierra Mental Wellness Group and hereby agrees to the use of named Sub-Contractor in the performance of those services, as more fully set forth in Exhibit "A", Schedule of Services.

ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT:

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of COUNTY and CONTRACTOR with respect to the subject matter hereof, and no other agreement, statement, or promise made by any party, or to any employee, officer, or agent of any party which is not contained in this Agreement shall be binding or valid.

GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE:

This contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California and the parties hereto agree that venue shall be in Nevada County, California.

COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS:

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with any and all federal, state and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules and regulations which relate to, concern or affect the Services to be provided by this Contract.

ATTACHMENT D

GENERAL PROVISIONS

D.1 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. For all purposes arising out of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall be an independent contractor and CONTRACTOR and each and every employee, agent, servant, partner, and shareholder of CONTRACTOR (collectively referred to as "The Contractor") shall not be, for any purpose of this Agreement, an employee of COUNTY. Furthermore, this Agreement shall not under any circumstance be construed or considered to be a joint powers agreement as described in *Government Code* Section 6000, et seq., or otherwise. As an independent contractor, the following shall apply:

D.1.1 CONTRACTOR shall determine the method, details and means of performing the services to be provided by CONTRACTOR as described in this Agreement.

D.1.2 CONTRACTOR shall be responsible to COUNTY only for the requirements and results specified by this Agreement and, except as specifically provided in this Agreement, shall not be subject to COUNTY's control with respect to the physical actions or activities of CONTRACTOR in fulfillment of the requirements of this Agreement.

D.1.3 CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for its own operating costs and expenses, property and income taxes, workers' compensation insurance and any other costs and expenses in connection with performance of services under this Agreement.

D.1.4 CONTRACTOR is not, and shall not be, entitled to receive from or through COUNTY, and COUNTY shall not provide or be obligated to provide the CONTRACTOR with workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance coverage or any other type of employee or worker insurance or benefit coverage required or provided by any federal, state or local law or regulation for, or normally afforded to, any employee of COUNTY.

D.1.5 The CONTRACTOR shall not be entitled to have COUNTY withhold or pay, and COUNTY shall not withhold or pay, on behalf of the CONTRACTOR any tax or money relating to the Social Security Old Age Pension Program, Social Security Disability Program or any other type of pension, annuity or disability program required or provided by any federal, state or local law or regulation for, or normally afforded to, an employee of COUNTY.

D.1.6 The CONTRACTOR shall not be entitled to participate in, or receive any benefit from, or make any claim against any COUNTY fringe benefit program including, but not limited to, COUNTY's pension plan, medical and health care plan, dental plan, life insurance plan, or other type of benefit program, plan or coverage designated for, provided to, or offered to COUNTY's employees.

D.1.7 COUNTY shall not withhold or pay on behalf of CONTRACTOR any federal, state or local tax including, but not limited to, any personal income tax owed by CONTRACTOR.

D.1.8 The CONTRACTOR is, and at all times during the term of this Agreement shall represent and conduct itself as, an independent contractor and not as an employee of COUNTY.

D.1.9 CONTRACTOR shall not have the authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of, bind or obligate the COUNTY in any way without the written consent of the COUNTY.

D.2 LICENSES, PERMITS, ETC. CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that it has all licenses, permits, qualifications, and approvals of whatsoever nature which are legally required for CONTRACTOR to practice its profession. CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that CONTRACTOR shall, at its sole cost and expense, keep in effect or obtain at all times during the term of this Agreement any licenses, permits, and approvals which are legally required for CONTRACTOR to practice its profession at the time the services are performed.

D.3 CHANGE IN STATUTES OR REGULATIONS. If there is a change of statutes or regulations applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement, both parties agree to be governed by the new provisions, unless either party gives notice to terminate pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

D.4 TIME. CONTRACTOR shall devote such time to the performance of services pursuant to this Agreement as may be reasonably necessary for the satisfactory performance of CONTRACTOR's obligations pursuant to this Agreement. Neither party shall be considered in default of this Agreement to the extent performance is prevented or delayed by any cause, present or future, which is beyond the reasonable control of the party.

D.5 INSURANCE.

D.5.1 Prior to rendering services provided by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall acquire and maintain during the term of this Agreement insurance coverage through and with an insurer acceptable to COUNTY, naming the COUNTY and COUNTY's officers, employees, agents and independent contractors as additional insured (hereinafter referred to as "the insurance"). The insurance shall contain the coverage indicated by the checked items below.

Yes **D.5.1.1** Comprehensive general liability insurance including comprehensive public liability insurance with minimum coverage of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and with not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) aggregate; CONTRACTOR shall insure both COUNTY and CONTRACTOR against any liability arising under or related to this Agreement.

Yes **D.5.1.2** During the term of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall maintain in full force and effect a policy of professional errors and omissions insurance with policy limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per incident and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) annual aggregate, with deductible or self-insured portion not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000).
(Waive For This Contract and Agreement)

Yes **D.5.1.3** Comprehensive automobile liability insurance with minimum coverage of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) per occurrence and with not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) on reserve in the aggregate, with combined single limit including owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

Yes **D.5.1.4** Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage for all CONTRACTOR employees and other persons for whom CONTRACTOR is responsible to provide such insurance coverage, as provided by Division 4 and 4.5 of the *Labor Code*.

D.5.2 The limits of insurance herein shall not limit the liability of the CONTRACTOR hereunder.

D.5.3 In respect to any insurance herein, if the aggregate limit available becomes less than that required above, other excess insurance shall be acquired and maintained immediately. For the purpose of any insurance term of this Agreement, "aggregate limit available" is defined as the total policy limits available for all claims made during the policy period.

D.5.4 The insurance shall include an endorsement that no cancellation or material change adversely affecting any coverage provided by the insurance may be made until twenty (20) days after written notice is delivered to COUNTY.

D.5.5 The insurance policy forms, endorsements and insurer(s) issuing the insurance shall be satisfactory to COUNTY at its sole and absolute discretion. The amount of any deductible payable by the insured shall be subject to the prior approval of the COUNTY and the COUNTY, as a condition of its approval, may require such proof of the adequacy of CONTRACTOR's financial resources as it may see fit.

D.5.6 Prior to CONTRACTOR rendering services provided by this Agreement, and immediately upon acquiring additional insurance, CONTRACTOR shall deliver a certificate of insurance describing the

insurance coverages and endorsements to:

County of Sierra
Auditor/Risk-Manager
P.O. Drawer 425
Downieville, CA 95936

D.5.7 CONTRACTOR shall not render services under the terms and conditions of this Agreement unless each type of insurance coverage and endorsement is in effect and CONTRACTOR has delivered the certificate(s) of insurance to COUNTY as previously described. If CONTRACTOR shall fail to procure and maintain said insurance, COUNTY may, but shall not be required to, procure and maintain the same, and the premiums of such insurance shall be paid by CONTRACTOR to COUNTY upon demand. The policies of insurance provided herein which are to be provided by CONTRACTOR shall be for a period of not less than one year, it being understood and agreed that twenty (20) days prior to the expiration of any policy of insurance, CONTRACTOR will deliver to COUNTY a renewal or new policy to take the place of the policy expiring.

D.5.8 COUNTY shall have the right to request such further coverages and/or endorsements on the insurance as COUNTY deems necessary, at CONTRACTOR's expense. The amounts, insurance policy forms, endorsements and insurer(s) issuing the insurance shall be satisfactory to COUNTY in its sole and absolute discretion.

D.5.9 Any subcontractor(s), independent contractor(s) or any type of agent(s) performing or hired to perform any term or condition of this Agreement on behalf of CONTRACTOR, as may be allowed by this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "SECONDARY PARTIES"), shall comply with each term and condition of this Section D.5 entitled "INSURANCE". Furthermore, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for the SECONDARY PARTIES' acts and satisfactory performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

D.6 HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION. To the fullest extent permitted by law, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") hereby agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold the other Party (the "Indemnified Party"), its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers, free and harmless from any and all losses, claims, liens, demands, and causes of action of every kind and character resulting from the Indemnifying Party's negligent act, willful misconduct, or error or omission, including, but not limited to, the amounts of judgments, penalties, interest, court costs, legal fees, and all other expenses incurred by the Indemnified Party arising in favor of any party, including claims, liens, debts, personal injuries, death, or damages to property (including employees or property of the Indemnified Party) and without limitation, all other claims or demands of every character occurring or in any way incident to, in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of, the Contract. The Indemnifying Party agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for, and defend any such claims, demand, or suit at the sole expense of the Indemnifying Party, using legal counsel approved in writing by Indemnified Party. Indemnifying Party also agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if the claim or claims alleged are groundless, false, or fraudulent. This provision is not intended to create any cause of action in favor of any third party against either Party or to enlarge in any way either Party's liability but is intended solely to provide for indemnification of the Indemnified Party from liability for damages, or injuries to third persons or property, arising from or in connection with Indemnifying Party's performance pursuant to this Contract. This obligation is independent of, and shall not in any way be limited by, the minimum insurance obligations contained in this Contract."

D.7 CONTRACTOR NOT AGENT. Except as COUNTY may specify in writing, CONTRACTOR shall have no authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of COUNTY in any capacity whatsoever as an agent. CONTRACTOR shall have no authority, express or implied, pursuant to this Agreement to bind COUNTY to any obligation whatsoever.

D.8 ASSIGNMENT PROHIBITED. CONTRACTOR may not assign any right or obligation pursuant to this Agreement. Any attempted or purported assignment of any right or obligation pursuant to this Agreement shall be void and of no legal effect.

D.9 PERSONNEL. CONTRACTOR shall assign only competent personnel to perform services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that COUNTY, in its sole discretion at any time during the term of this Agreement, desires the removal of any person or persons assigned by CONTRACTOR to perform services pursuant to this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall remove any such person immediately upon receiving written notice from COUNTY of its desire for removal of such person or persons.

D.10 STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE. CONTRACTOR shall perform all services required pursuant to this Agreement in the manner and according to the standards observed by a competent practitioner of the profession in which CONTRACTOR is engaged. All products of whatsoever nature which CONTRACTOR delivers to COUNTY pursuant to this Agreement shall be prepared in a first class and workmanlike manner and shall conform to the standards of quality normally observed by a person practicing in CONTRACTOR's profession.

D.11 POSSESSORY INTEREST. The parties to this Agreement recognize that certain rights to property may create a "possessory interest", as those words are used in the *California Revenue and Taxation Code* (107). For all purposes of compliance by COUNTY with Section 107.6 of the *California Revenue and Taxation Code*, this recital shall be deemed full compliance by the COUNTY. All questions of initial determination of possessory interest and valuation of such interest, if any, shall be the responsibility of the County Assessor and the contracting parties hereto. A taxable possessory interest may be created by this, if created, and the party in whom such an interest is vested will be subject to the payment of property taxes levied on such an interest.

D.12 TAXES. CONTRACTOR hereby grants to the COUNTY the authority to deduct from any payments to CONTRACTOR any COUNTY imposed taxes, fines, penalties and related charges which are delinquent at the time such payments under this Agreement are due to CONTRACTOR.

D.13 TERMINATION. COUNTY shall have the right to terminate this Agreement at any time by giving notice in writing of such termination to CONTRACTOR. In the event COUNTY gives notice of termination, CONTRACTOR shall immediately cease rendering service upon receipt of such written notice and the following shall apply:

D.13.1.1 CONTRACTOR shall deliver to COUNTY copies of all writings prepared by it pursuant to this Agreement. The term "writings" shall be construed to mean and include: handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, computer storage medium (tapes, disks, diskettes, etc.) and every other means of recording upon any tangible thing, and form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combinations thereof.

D.13.1.2 COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR the reasonable value of services rendered by CONTRACTOR to the date of termination pursuant to this Agreement not to exceed the amount documented by CONTRACTOR and approved by COUNTY as work accomplished to date; provided, however, that in no event shall any payment hereunder exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Further provided, however, COUNTY shall not in any manner be liable for lost profits which might have been made by CONTRACTOR had CONTRACTOR completed the services required by this Agreement. In this regard, CONTRACTOR shall furnish to COUNTY such financial information as in the judgment of the COUNTY is necessary to determine the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR. In the event of a dispute as to the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR, the decision of the COUNTY shall be final. The foregoing is cumulative and does not affect any right or remedy which COUNTY may have in law or equity.

D.13.2 CONTRACTOR may terminate its services under this Agreement upon thirty (30) working days written notice to the COUNTY, without liability for damages, if CONTRACTOR is not compensated according to the provisions of the Agreement or upon any other material breach of the Agreement by COUNTY, provided that CONTRACTOR has first provided COUNTY with a written notice of any alleged breach, specifying the nature of the alleged breach and providing not less than ten (10) working days within which the COUNTY may cure the alleged breach.

D.14 OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION. All professional and technical information developed under this Agreement and all work sheets, reports, and related data shall become and/or remain the property of COUNTY, and

CONTRACTOR agrees to deliver reproducible copies of such documents to COUNTY on completion of the services hereunder. The COUNTY agrees to indemnify and hold CONTRACTOR harmless from any claim arising out of reuse of the information for other than this project.

D.15 WAIVER. A waiver by any party of any breach of any term, covenant or condition herein contained or a waiver of any right or remedy of such party available hereunder at law or in equity shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term, covenant or condition herein contained or of any continued or subsequent right to the same right or remedy. No party shall be deemed to have made any such waiver unless it is in writing and signed by the party so waiving.

D.16 COMPLETENESS OF INSTRUMENT. This Agreement, together with its specific references and attachments, constitutes all of the agreements, understandings, representations, conditions, warranties and covenants made by and between the parties hereto. Unless set forth herein, neither party shall be liable for any representations made, express or implied.

D.17 SUPERSEDES PRIOR AGREEMENTS. It is the intention of the parties hereto that this Agreement shall supersede any prior agreements, discussions, commitments, representations, or agreements, written or oral, between the parties hereto.

D.18 MINOR AUDITOR REVISION. In the event the Sierra County Auditor's office finds a mathematical discrepancy between the terms of the Agreement and actual invoices or payments, provided that such discrepancy does not exceed 1% of the Agreement amount, the Auditor's office may make the adjustment in any payment or payments without requiring an amendment to the Agreement to provide for such adjustment. Should the COUNTY or the CONTRACTOR disagree with such adjustment, they reserve the right to contest such adjustment and/or to request corrective amendment.

D.19 CAPTIONS. The captions of this Agreement are for convenience in reference only and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

D.20 DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, or unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions and rules of construction shall apply herein.

D.20.1 NUMBER AND GENDER. In this Agreement, the neuter gender includes the feminine and masculine, the singular includes the plural, and the word "person" includes corporations, partnerships, firms or associations, wherever the context so requires.

D.20.2 MANDATORY AND PERMISSIVE. "Shall" and "will" and "agrees" are mandatory. "May" is permissive.

D.21 TERM INCLUDES EXTENSIONS. All references to the term of this Agreement or the Agreement Term shall include any extensions of such term.

D.22 SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. All representations, covenants and warranties specifically set forth in this Agreement, by or on behalf of, or for the benefit of any or all of the parties hereto, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of such party, its successors and assigns.

D.23 MODIFICATION. No modification or waiver of any provisions of this Agreement or its attachments shall be effective unless such waiver or modification shall be in writing, signed by all parties, and then shall be effective only for the period and on the condition, and for the specific instance for which given.

D.24 COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed simultaneously and in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

D.25 OTHER DOCUMENTS. The parties agree that they shall cooperate in good faith to accomplish the object of this Agreement and, to that end, agree to execute and deliver such other and further instruments and documents as

may be necessary and convenient to the fulfillment of these purposes.

D.26 PARTIAL INVALIDITY. If any term, covenant, condition or provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the provision and/or provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

D.27 VENUE. It is agreed by the parties hereto that unless otherwise expressly waived by them, any action brought to enforce any of the provisions hereof or for declaratory relief hereunder shall be filed and remain in a court of competent jurisdiction in the County of Sierra, State of California.

D.28 CONTROLLING LAW. The validity, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be controlled by and construed under the laws of the State of California.

D.29 CALIFORNIA TORT CLAIMS ACT. Notwithstanding any term or condition of the Agreement, the provisions, and related provisions, of the California Tort Claims Act, Division 3.6 of the *Government Code*, are not waived by COUNTY and shall apply to any claim against COUNTY arising out of any acts or conduct under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

D.30 TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Time is of the essence of this Agreement and each covenant and term herein.

D.31 AUTHORITY. All parties to this Agreement warrant and represent that they have the power and authority to enter into this Agreement in the names, titles and capacities herein stated and on behalf of any entities, persons, estates or firms represented or purported to be represented by such entity(s), person(s), estate(s) or firm(s) and that all formal requirements necessary or required by any state and/or federal law in order to enter into this Agreement are in full compliance. Further, by entering into this Agreement, neither party hereto shall have breached the terms or conditions of any other contract or agreement to which such party is obligated, which such breach would have a material effect hereon.

D.32 CORPORATE AUTHORITY. If CONTRACTOR is a corporation or public agency, each individual executing this Agreement on behalf of said corporation or public agency represents and warrants that he or she is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of said corporation, in accordance with a duly adopted resolution of the Board of Directors of said corporation or in accordance with the bylaws of said corporation or Board or Commission of said public agency, and that this Agreement is binding upon said corporation or public entity in accordance with its terms. If CONTRACTOR is a corporation, CONTRACTOR shall, within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement, deliver to COUNTY a certified copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of said corporation authorizing or ratifying the execution of this Agreement.

D.33 CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

D.33.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE. CONTRACTOR agrees at all times in performance of this Agreement to comply with the law of the State of California regarding conflicts of interest, including, but not limited to, Article 4 of Chapter 1, Division 4, Title 1 of the *California Government Code*, commencing with Section 1090, and Chapter 7 of Title 9 of said Code, commencing with Section 87100, including regulations promulgated by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

D.33.2 ADVISEMENT. CONTRACTOR agrees that if any facts come to its attention which raises any questions as to the applicability of this law, it will immediately inform the COUNTY designated representative and provide all information needed for resolution of the question.

D.33.3 ADMONITION. Without limitation of the covenants in subparagraphs D.34.1 and D.34.2, CONTRACTOR is admonished hereby as follows:

The statutes, regulations and laws referenced in this provision D.34 include, but are not limited to, a prohibition against any public officer, including CONTRACTOR for this purpose, from making any decision on behalf of COUNTY in which such officer has a direct or indirect financial interest. A violation occurs if the public officer influences or participates in any COUNTY decision which has the potential to confer any pecuniary benefit on CONTRACTOR or any business firm in which

CONTRACTOR has an interest of any type, with certain narrow exceptions.

D.34 NONDISCRIMINATION. During the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall not unlawfully discriminate against any employee of the CONTRACTOR or of the COUNTY or applicant for employment or for services or any member of the public because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, age or sex. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that in the provision of services under this Agreement, its employees and applicants for employment and any member of the public are free from such discrimination. CONTRACTOR shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (*Government Code* Section 12900 et seq.). The applicable regulations of the Fair Employment Housing Commission implementing *Government Code* Section 12900, set forth in Chapter 5, Division 4 of Title 2 of the *California Administrative Code* are incorporated into this Agreement by reference and made a part hereof as if set forth in full. CONTRACTOR shall also abide by the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all amendments thereto, and all administrative rules and regulation issued pursuant to said Act. CONTRACTOR shall give written notice of its obligations under this clause to any labor agreement. CONTRACTOR shall include the non-discrimination and compliance provision of this paragraph in all subcontracts to perform work under this Agreement.

D.35 JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY. If any party consists of more than one person or entity, the liability of each person or entity signing this Agreement shall be joint and several.

D.36 TAXPAYER I.D. NUMBER. The COUNTY shall not disburse any payments to CONTRACTOR pursuant to this Agreement until CONTRACTOR supplies the latter's Taxpayer I.D. Number or Social Security Number (as required on the line under CONTRACTOR's signature on page 2 of this Agreement).

D.37 NOTICES. All notices and demands of any kind which either party may require or desire to serve on the other in connection with this Agreement must be served in writing either by personal service or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be deposited in the United States Mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, and addressed to the party so to be served as follows:

If to "COUNTY":
Director
Sierra County Department of Behavioral Health
PO Box 265
Loyalton, California, 96118

With a copy to:
County Counsel
County of Sierra
Post Office Drawer D
Downieville, CA 95936

If to "CONTRACTOR":
Phebe Bell, Director
Nevada County Behavioral Health
500 Crown Point Circle, Suite 120
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 470-2784

Confidential- On File
(Taxpayers I.D. or Social Security No.)

Sierra County Department of Behavioral Health
P.O. Box 1019
Loyalton, CA 96118

Re: _____

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR

BALANCE FORWARD \$

TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES:

Total \$ _____

SIERRA COUNTY

Business Associates Agreement

This Agreement is entered into this 1st day of July, 2024, by and between the County of Sierra doing business by and through the Sierra County Department of Behavioral Health (collectively referred to herein as the “County” and Nevada County Behavioral Health (referred to herein as the “Business Associate”)

Recitals

WHEREAS, County has heretofore or contemporaneously with the execution of this Agreement entered into an Agreement for Professional Services (the “Professional Services Agreement”) whereby Business Associate provides certain services to County and its clients and citizens which involves the access and use of certain information pertaining to individuals which information is required to be kept confidential and protected under the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-101 (referred to herein as “HIPAA”) and the regulations adopted pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Professional Services Agreement County will make available and/or transfer to Business Associate, and/or Business Associate will generate or otherwise access confidential, personally identifiable health information in conjunction with services delivered on behalf of the County; and

WHEREAS, such information may be used or disclosed only in accordance with HIPAA and the applicable regulations [including without limitation, 45 CFR §§ 164.502(e); 164.504(e)] issued pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [42 USC §§ 1320 – 1320d-8] and the terms of this Agreement, or more stringent provisions of the law of the State of California and in accordance with The Sierra County Health and Human Services Information Security Policies Manual.

NOW THEREFORE, In consideration of the obligations, benefits and compensation provided to Business Associate under the provisions of the Professional Services Agreement and in order to ensure that said Agreement remains valid and complies with HIPAA, the parties agree as follows:

1. As used herein and with reference to the obligations under HIPAA, Protected Health Information (“PHI”) shall mean individually identifiable health information including, without limitation, all information, data, documentation, and materials of any nature or form, including without limitation, demographic, medical and financial information, that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and that identifies the individual or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual. PHI shall include but not be limited to individually identifiable information received from or on behalf of the County as more fully defined in 45 CFR § 164.501, and any amendments thereto.
2. County shall provide to Business Associate a copy of the current Notice of Privacy Practices and any relevant information on changes to or agreed upon restrictions relating to legal permissions for the use or disclosure of PHI and a copy of Sierra County Health and Human Services Information Security Policies Manual.
3. Business Associate agrees that it shall not receive, create, use or disclose PHI except as follows:
 - a. (1) solely for meeting its obligations as set forth in the Professional Services Agreement and any other agreements between the Parties evidencing their business relationship or
 - (2) as required by applicable law, rule or regulation, or by accrediting or credentialing

organization to whom Covered Entity is required to disclose such information or as otherwise permitted under this Agreement, the Arrangement Agreement (if consistent with this Agreement and the HIPAA Privacy Rule), or the HIPAA Privacy Rule, and (3) as would be permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule if such use or disclosure were made by Covered Entity;

b. If necessary for the proper management and administration of Business Associate or to carry out legal responsibilities of Business Associate, PHI may only be disclosed to another person/entity for such purposes if:

- Disclosure is required by law; or
- Where Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom disclosure is made that the PHI released will be held confidentially, and only may be used or further disclosed as required by law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached; and
- Person agrees to notify Business Associate of any breaches of confidentiality;

c. To permit Business Associate to provide data aggregation services relating to the health care operations of the County.

4. Business Associate and County agree that neither of them will request, use or release more than the minimum amount of PHI necessary to accomplish the purpose of the use, disclosure or request.

5. Business Associate will establish and maintain appropriate safeguards to prevent any unauthorized use or disclosure of PHI.

6. Business Associate agrees that it shall immediately report to County any unauthorized uses/disclosures of which it becomes aware, and shall take all reasonable steps to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of such breach.

7. Business Associate hereby indemnifies County and agrees to hold County harmless from and against any and all losses, expense, damage or injury that County may sustain as a result of, or arising out of, Business Associate's, or its agent's or subAgreementor's, unauthorized use or disclosure of PHI.

8. Business Associate shall be covered by comprehensive general liability insurance.

9. Business Associate shall ensure that all of its subcontractors and agents are bound by the same restrictions and obligations contained herein whenever PHI is made accessible to such subcontractors or agents, and shall give prior notice to County of any subcontractors or agents who are to be given access to PHI.

10. Business Associate shall make all PHI and related information in its possession available as follows:

- a. To the individual or his/her personal representative or to the County, to the extent necessary to permit County to fulfill any obligation to allow access for inspection and copying in accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR § 164.524 and any subsequent amendments to the regulations;
- b. To the individual or his/her personal representative or to the County, to the extent necessary to permit County to fulfill any obligation to account for disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528 and any subsequent amendments to the regulations.

11. Business Associate shall make PHI available to County to fulfill County's obligation to

amend PHI and related information in accordance with 45 CFR §164.526, and shall, as directed by County, incorporate any amendments or related statements into the information held by Business Associate and any subcontractors or agents.

12. Business Associate agrees to make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use or disclosure of information received from or on behalf of County available to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee, for purposes of determining compliance with the privacy regulations, and any amendments thereto.

13. Upon termination of this Agreement, Business Associate agrees, at the option of County, to return or destroy all PHI created or received from or on behalf of County. Business Associate agrees that it will not retain any copies of PHI except as required by law. If PHI is destroyed, Business Associate agrees to provide County with appropriate documentation/certification evidencing such destruction. If return or destruction of all PHI, and all copies of PHI, is not feasible, Business Associate agrees to extend the protections of this Agreement to such information for as long as it is maintained. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any of its provisions that, by wording or nature, are intended to remain effective and to continue in operation.

14. The PHI and any related information created or received from or on behalf of County is and shall remain the property of the County. Business Associate agrees that it acquires no title in or rights to the information, including any de-identified information.

15. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, County shall have the right to immediately terminate the Professional Services Agreement or any other agreement between the parties if County determines that Business Associate has violated any material term of this Agreement. If County reasonably believes that Business Associate will violate a material term of this Agreement and, where practicable, County gives written notice to Business Associate of such belief within a reasonable time after forming such belief, and Business Associate fails to provide adequate written assurances to County that it will not breach the cited term of this Agreement within a reasonable period of time given the specific circumstances, but in any event, before the threatened breach is to occur, then County shall have the right to immediately terminate the Professional Services Agreement or any other agreement between the parties. In the event of termination as described in this Paragraph, County shall have the right to contract for replacement service through another entity or provider, with Business Associate responsible for paying any difference in cost.

16. Notwithstanding any rights or remedies under this Agreement or provided by law, County retains all rights to seek injunctive relief to prevent or stop the unauthorized use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate, any of its subcontractors or agents, or any third party who has received PHI from Business Associate.

17. This Agreement shall be binding on the parties and their successor, but neither party may assign the Agreement without the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

18. The obligations to safeguard the confidentiality and security of PHI imposed herein shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

19. Any ambiguities in this Agreement shall be resolved in favor of an interpretation that promotes compliance with HIPAA and regulations promulgated thereunder. The parties agree that any modifications to those laws shall modify the obligations of the parties hereunder without the need for formal amendment of the Agreement. Any other amendments to this Agreement shall not be effective without the written agreement of both parties.

20. Any notice to the other party pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed provided if sent by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

To County: County of Sierra
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 265
Loyalton, CA 96118

To Contractor: Phebe Bell, Director
Nevada County Behavioral Health
500 Crown Point Circle, Suite 120
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 470-2784