



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 Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for the provision of crisis intervention services, community crisis services, and services relating to the operation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) to revise Exhibit “A”, Schedule of Services to expand crisis services to include 24/7 mobile crisis response per the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) direction in BHIN 23-025 and revise Exhibit “B”, Schedule of Charges and Payments to reflect the increase in the maximum contract price from \$3,637,079 to \$4,559,576 (an increase of \$922,497), for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Behavioral Health Budget (4/5 Vote Required). (RES. 23-307)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services are supported by: Guaranteed-bed fees from Sierra Nevada Memorial- Miners Hospital (SNMH); patient revenues for treatment including Medi-Cal and private insurance reimbursement; Department realignment funding; MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) funding, Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) funding through SAMHSA, Department of Justice Community Policing Development Crisis Intervention Teams (COPS) grant funding through the Sheriff’s office, and ARPA funding. A budget amendment is needed and is included with the resolution. There are no County general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: On June 27, 2023, per Resolution 22-307, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved execution of the Professional Services Contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for the following components: Crisis Intervention and Mobile Crisis Services; and the Operation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released the Behavioral Health Informational Notice (BHIN) 23-025 that requires that all county behavioral health systems in California provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, as a Medi-Cal benefit as of December 31, 2023. Under this new requirement, Nevada County Behavioral Health has been working with their crisis services contractor, Sierra Mental Wellness Group, and other community partners to create a plan and budget to expand the existing crisis system of care to include crisis teams available 24/7 to respond within the community to individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing behavioral health crisis.

Sierra Mental Wellness Group (SMWG) has a longstanding partnership with Nevada County Behavioral Health in providing quality services within the behavioral health crisis continuum of care. Not only has SMWG provided ongoing crisis services in Nevada County for over 10 years, but they were also part of the start up for the Crisis Stabilization Unit in 2015, as well as the implementation of the co-responder model mobile crisis teams piloted with law enforcement in 2019.

This Amendment includes the infrastructure and staffing needed to expand crisis services in Nevada County to include a 24/7 mobile crisis response system.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment as these contracted services provide both a state required Medi-Cal benefit and an essential service for Nevada County residents by further enhancing the crisis continuum of care within Nevada County.

Item initiated and approved by: Phebe Bell, MSW – Director of Behavioral Health