



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
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**AGENCY**

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## **NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** October 13, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 1 to the renewal contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for the provision of services in relation to crisis intervention, community client services, and services relating to the operation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) increasing the maximum contract price from \$2,333,470 to \$2,431,917 (an increase of \$98,447), revising Exhibit "A" to add Mobile Crisis services and revising Exhibit "B" Schedule of Charges and Payments to reflect the increase in the maximum Contract Price. (RES. 20-289)

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**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; MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Funding, Data Driven Recovery Project (DDRP) grant funds made available through an MOU with Yolo County and funds made available through the Sheriff's Office. There are no County general fund dollars required in the Agreement. A budget amendment will be included with the next County Wide Budget Amendment in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office.

**BACKGROUND:** Per Resolution 20-289, the Board approved a renewal contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for mandated crisis and intervention services for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

The contract includes the following components: Crisis Intervention and Community Client Services; and Services in Relation to the Operation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).

Services in Relation to the Operation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU):

Sierra Mental Wellness Group will continue to provide management and oversight of the Crisis Response Team (CRT) and the CSU. The CSU offers a much calmer, therapeutic environment for individuals experiencing a psychiatric crisis, as the CSU provides physical separation from non-psychiatric patients at the Emergency Department. The Contractor will provide staffing to meet all criteria for Medi-Cal billing certification standards, as well as maintaining a documented staffing plan for the CSU that covers staffing strategies for business hours, after hours and weekends.

Eligibility criteria for admission of a client to the CSU include:

Eighteen (18) years of age or older;

At risk of needing psychiatric hospitalization;

Discharged or transferred (while on a 5150 hold) from the Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), and determined to be both medically cleared of any need for inpatient medical procedures and medically and behaviorally appropriate for the CSU; Clients may be admitted to the CSU while on a 5150. This could be during times the CRT is in the process of finding a psychiatric bed; and admission assessments by the CRT will consider the client's psychiatric stability and any indications that the client is a danger to self or others prior to placement in the CSU.

The goal of the CSU is to:

Improve access to the most appropriate treatment resources, and decrease the utilization of hospital emergency departments, jails and homeless programs for behavioral health emergencies;

Provide timely aid to de-escalate the crisis episode and stabilize patients quickly and assist them to return to their pre-crisis level of functioning;

Reduce the number of days of inpatient hospital stays and costs; and

Increase patients' ability to receive treatment within their community and to engage in local support systems.

Crisis Intervention and Community Client Services:

This contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for mandated crisis and intervention services. Crisis services are case-driven initial evaluation and referral services for patients needing immediate mental health crisis intervention. The therapeutic response may be accomplished by phone and/or face to face contacts. The response encompasses multiple functions including evaluations according to Section 5150 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, to evaluate whether or not a patient is a danger to themselves or others or unable to function in the community. If needed, the Crisis Workers are responsible for assisting in the admission and paperwork completion for the patient to a 5150 facility designated by the County.

Services may also involve direct counseling and/or mental status assessments, information regarding mental health services and referrals to alternative resources, assisting clients in obtaining other social or human services as required, and consultation with referring agencies or client's significant others, as well as, maintaining after hours phone coverage for the County's Truckee Clinic.

Crisis Workers provide assessments and evaluations of Mental Health clients at the Behavioral Health Clinic, Jail, Juvenile Hall, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital emergency room, Tahoe Forest Hospital and/or other designated areas. This amendment adds a 1.0 FTE crisis worker who will provide crisis and referral services in tandem with a designated Sheriff's deputy as part of a Mobile Crisis Team. The crisis staff will respond with Sheriff's deputy to calls related to mental health, substance use, and/or homelessness, with goal of de-escalating crises and reducing incidents of arrest and incarceration. Crisis workers respond and triage each case according to the individual's needs, providing immediate brief intervention and follow-up for people experiencing emotional crisis in their lives. In cases of protracted crisis admissions, Contractor shall also provide supplemental support staff to assist in the process.

It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution amending the renewal agreement as this contract serves the needs of Nevada County residents experiencing a mental health crisis, but also allows us to collaborate with neighboring counties, lowering our costs and improving services for the region.

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