



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

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

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**MEETING DATE:** May 10, 2016

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Mike Dent**

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on services and performance measures related to the administration of employment services for Nevada County CalWORKs participants through employability Barrier Removal Program, unpaid Work Experience (WEX), paid Subsidized Employment Program (SEP), and Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) Programs.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** No action necessary, Informational only.

**FUNDING:** N/A.

**BACKGROUND:**

In February 2015, the Board approved a short-term contract with Nevada-Sierra In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority to provide Expanded Subsidized Employment Program services through the end of June 2015. As a result of an RFP process, the Public Authority was awarded this contract for the provision of Employment Services to include Barrier Removal Program, Work Experience (WEX), Subsidized Employment Program (SEP) and Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) Programs for Nevada County CalWORKs participants for the contract term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Pursuant to this Agreement, the Contractor provides employment services to participants in the Nevada County Welfare-to-Work Program. CalWORKs participants are able to avail themselves of these programs which help increase their employability while helping the Department of Social Services meet its Federal Work Participation Rate (WPR), thereby avoiding possible financial penalties for not reaching established performance standards.

The Barrier Removal Program provides a holistic approach, providing training, tools, and supports to help participants achieve success not only in employment, but also in their personal lives.

Stability in housing, family life and health are key to stability in employment. The Contractor maintains the capacity to serve 30 participants at any given time in the Barrier Removal Program.

Work experience is an unpaid work activity performed by recipients of public assistance. The program is designed to help participants improve their job skills in a non-paid work position so that they will be able to find paid employment. The Subsidized Employment Program (SEP) is designed to provide paid work experience opportunities for CalWORKs participants to assist them in transitioning to unsubsidized employment. The Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) program was created to build upon the success of the existing subsidized employment program which is proven to be beneficial in transitioning CalWORKs clients into the labor market. ESE placements are limited to a maximum of one six-month placement.

The Contractor works with the Nevada County Economic Resource Council and similar local agencies to develop up to six County-wide placements in subsidized employment slots and up to twenty-eight County-wide placements in ESE slots with public and private sector employers.

The presentation reviews Contractor data for the first six-month contract period and informs the Board on other activities related to the Expanded Subsidized Employment Program in an effort to assist CalWORKs participants in their efforts to become financially self-sufficient.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Mike Dent, Department of Social Services Director