



Health and Human Services Agency

Ryan Gruver, MPA, Agency Director

Phebe Bell, MSW, Behavioral Health

Paul Johnson, JD, Child Support

Tyler Barrington, Interim, Housing & Community Service

Jeff Goldman, MPA, Probation

Keri Klein, Public Defender

Kathy Cahill, MPH, Public Health

Rachel Peña, LCSW, Social Services

950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-1627

Fax: (530) 265-2295

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 1 to the contract with SPIRIT - Peers for Independence and Recovery, Inc. to increase the contract price from \$485,006 to \$507,401 (an increase of \$22,395), and amend Exhibit "B" to reflect the increase in the maximum contract price for operation of SPIRIT's Mental Health Peer Empowerment Center and related services as a component of the County's Mental Health Services Act Plan. (RES. 24-260)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services are primarily funded from MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) monies made available to Behavioral Health. The MHSA (Proposition 63) provides revenue for the transformation and enhancement of mental health services as provided by State and County agencies. There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: On June 11, 2024 per Resolution 24-260, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors executed a contract with SPIRIT for the enhancement and expansion of services to meet unmet community needs as a component of the County's MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan. This funding supports the operations of the SPIRIT Peer Empowerment Center, a peer-driven community support center that offers free drop-in services and classes that support participants as they identify their path to recovery and empower themselves to achieve their personal goals. One of the key populations that SPIRIT Peer Empowerment Center supports are those experiencing homelessness. This support includes offering more basic services such as showers and laundry in addition to empowerment and recovery focused support. This year's renewal brings new capacity to SPIRIT's ability to deliver services as SPIRIT will be moving into the recently acquired and soon to be renovated Commons Resource Center. The new center will provide a larger facility with expanded capacity to deliver peer support and vital basic services. Building on SPIRIT's demonstrated ability to engage individuals experiencing homelessness, the center maintains a commitment to partnering with the surrounding businesses and residents to create

a safe and inclusive environment for recovery and healing. Under this agreement SPIRIT, will continue to:

- ❖ Provide One-on-one Peer Counseling for those over eighteen years of age, offering a number of theme-specific peer support/self-help groups geared to strengthen recovery. Services are available to individuals who may be unable or unwilling to access traditional services or cannot otherwise afford counseling or psychotherapy.
- ❖ Provide services that support existing mental health services and reach out to the community to provide education about mental health services and mental health illness to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
- ❖ Engage those experiencing homelessness by offering basic services including showers and laundry.
- ❖ Provide Outreach to both the unserved and the underserved individuals with mental health difficulties that will promote healing through a supportive environment that provides support, empowerment, and the development of life skills to reduce their personal suffering and increase their quality of life.
- ❖ Provide training to Peer Support Staff and individuals that seek to empower themselves in interacting with the media, potential employers, and other community agencies. Participants will be provided instruction and assistance to learn how to compile a resume, participate in a job interview, conduct and organize fundraising events, create brochures and marketing tools, and ultimately enable individuals to interact with the business community.
- ❖ Provide referrals to community resources, including mental health services, and support individuals to connect to referred resources.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment increasing the contract maximum to help cover SPIRIT's rent at their existing location due to delays in the completion of the Common Resource remodel where SPIRIT will be moving to, as it supports an innovative program that works to increase access to the underserved, helps to improve outcomes for participants, promotes education and individual advocacy, and provides resource and referral guidance.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director