



Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Imagine Arts and Family Therapy Inc, DBA What's Up Wellness, for the provision of mental health screening services for high school students in Nevada County, as a component of the County's Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Plan in the maximum amount of \$230,450 for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services are funded by Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars. PEI funding is intended to support strategies to help identify and increase prevention efforts and responses to early signs of emotional and behavioral health problems among specific at-risk populations. These services are included in the Department's FY 2025/26 budget, and there are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: Teen Screen Schools and Communities is a national mental health and suicide risk screening program developed by Columbia University's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in response to research revealing that 90 percent of youth who die by suicide suffer from a diagnosable mental illness and that 64 percent experience symptoms for at least a year prior to their deaths.

Under this contract, the Contractor will continue to implement the Teen Screen model to make voluntary mental health checkups available to all of Nevada County's ninth graders in the Nevada Joint Union High School District and the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, in addition to Nevada County charter schools and other grades of students upon consideration of program capacity.

The Contractor has established a Project Team that includes the following core positions: Executive Director, Assistant Director, Clinical Coordinator, Screening Clinicians, Screening Counselors, Case Manager, Program Assistant, and Prevention Group Facilitators who will coordinate efforts to offer screening in participating Nevada County schools. In addition, the

Contractor will make available translation/interpretation services to create opportunities for outreach in the Hispanic communities in Grass Valley and Truckee on an as-needed basis and provide Group Facilitation services for on-campus prevention groups including recruitment, coordinating services through student assistance programs, facilitating groups, and evaluation of group effectiveness. The program is completely voluntary, and parental consent and youth assent are required for participation in the program.

It is recommended that the Board approve this renewal contract as it provides services that can intervene with at-risk youth and connect them with the mental health services that can help save lives.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director