



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services
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Ryan Gruver**

**Behavioral Health Director:
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**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a contract with the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) services including outreach and engagement, access and linkage to services, case management support, and education and training to reduce stigma surrounding mental health for the Indigenous People of Nevada County in the maximum amount of \$90,000 for the contract term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services are funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) monies made available to Nevada County for the PEI (Prevention and Early Intervention) component of Nevada County's MHSA Plan. There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND:

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. As identified in the 2022 Nevada County Mental Health Needs Assessment, there is a lack of awareness of existing behavioral health services and how to access them among Native/Indigenous People residing in Nevada County. A survey of the indigenous residents of Nevada County revealed that 82% of Tribal members are living at or below the federal poverty level and struggle with addressing challenges related to the social determinants of health—housing, economic stability, transportation, food insecurity, unemployment, education and navigating the health care system.

Through this funding, the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) shall

provide outreach and engagement, access and linkage to services, case management support, and education and training to reduce stigma surrounding mental health for the Indigenous People of Nevada County. Funds will be used to hire a full-time Tribal Prevention and Intervention Specialist to provide these needed services to the community, as well as to provide trauma informed training and program supplies and incentives.

It is recommended that the Board approves this contract, as it builds community capacity and collaboration for providing behavioral health education, intervention, and services for a traditionally underserved population in Nevada County.

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