



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

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

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## **NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** January 8, 2019

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving Nevada County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation (INN) Five-Year Work Plan for the Homeless Outreach and Medical Engagement (HOME) Team for FY 2018/19 through FY 2022/23

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The estimated program expenditure under the County's MHSA Innovation (INN) Five-Year Work Plan is \$2,582,590 over 5 years (\$516,518 per fiscal year). Anticipated funding for this program includes the MHSA INN allocation and Medi-Cal FFP funds. The Work Plan does not require any county match or county general fund dollars and is planned for within the departments' budget.

**BACKGROUND:** The Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) adopted by the California electorate on November 2, 2004, increased overall State funding for the community mental health system by imposing a 1% income tax on California residents with more than \$1 million per year in income. The stated intention of the proposition was to "transform" local mental health service delivery systems from a "fail first" model to one promoting intervention, treatment and recovery from mental illness. The current components of the MHSA Plan are: Community Services and Support (CSS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Innovation (INN), and Workforce and Training (WET).

On December 12, 2017, per Resolution 17-0907, this Board approved the Nevada County MHSA 2017/18 through FY 2019/20 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan. Through this Resolution, Behavioral Health desires to submit an MHSA Innovation Work Plan that will ultimately be integrated into the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan.

The goal of the Innovation component of the MHSA Plan is to develop and implement promising practices designed to increase access to services by un-served and underserved groups, increase the quality of services, improve outcomes, and promote interagency collaboration. MHSA Innovation funds may not be used for capital purchases. The Nevada County Innovation Project's goal is to engage with those experiencing chronic homelessness in our community in an innovative and destigmatizing way in order to help them achieve greater stability in their lives. According to the 2018 *Point In Time* Count, 44% of people surveyed met the chronically homeless definition versus the state average of 28%. Furthermore, 41% of those surveyed identified as having a chronic health condition, and 46% reported having a mental health disorder. Unmet physical health needs often create a barrier to accessing necessary services such as behavioral health treatment, substance use treatment, and housing.

This Innovation Project will establish the Homeless Outreach and Medical Engagement (HOME) Team, which will include a Nurse, Personal Services Coordinator, and Peer Specialist to identify physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder needs. The HOME Team will meet with individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness at various locations in the community. The goal of the project will be to lead with physical health care services, which is often less stigmatizing than mental health or substance use services. The INN project will also offer low-barrier, "housing first" master-leased housing units to program participants, with the support of an additional Personal Services Coordinator to provide post-housing support to promote housing stability. Placement into housing will not require sobriety nor engagement with services such as behavioral health services.

MHSA regulations require that the County Board of Supervisors approve or have a scheduled meeting to approve the Innovation plan before it is heard by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for final approval. It is anticipated that this Innovation plan will be heard by the MHSOAC in February or March of 2019.

It is recommended the Board approve Nevada County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation (INN) Five-Year Work Plan, which will engage those experiencing chronic homelessness in our community through the innovative approaches of leading with both physical health care services and housing.

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