



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cari Yardley, Acting Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with SPIRIT - Peers for Independence and Recovery, Inc., in the maximum amount of \$614,401, for Fiscal Year 2026/27, for operation of SPIRIT's Mental Health Peer Empowerment Center at Commons Resource Center and for enhancement of services related to the County's Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services are primarily funded from BHSA monies made available to Behavioral Health. Services and included in the Department's fiscal year 2026/27 budget. There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: Continuation of services under this agreement is for the enhancement and expansion of services to meet unmet community needs as a component of the County's Behavioral Health Services Act Implementation 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 basic services, such as showers and laundry, in addition to empowerment and recovery-focused support. SPIRIT currently operates out of the Commons Resource Center, providing needed day services in the Brunswick Basin area, and a co-location with the Nevada County Behavioral Health Homeless Outreach and Medical Engagement Team. 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 strengthening 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 behavioral health services and
- ❖ Provide outreach to the community to provide education about behavioral health services and behavioral health illness to reduce stigma.
- ❖ Engage those experiencing homelessness by offering basic services, including showers and laundry.
- ❖ Provide outreach to both unserved and underserved individuals with behavioral 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 who seek to empower themselves through positive community interactions and engagement, and/or employment. 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 renewal contract, as it supports an innovative program that works to increase access to basic services for the underserved, helps to improve outcomes for participants through focus on recovery and the peer experience, promotes education and individual advocacy, and provides resource and referral guidance.

Approved by: Cari Yardley, Acting Behavioral Health Director