



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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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 Amendment No. 7 to the Operational Agreement between the County of Nevada and Sierra Nevada Memorial-Miners Hospital (SNMH) Amending the Financial Arrangement for the Provision of Crisis Stabilization Services on the SNMH Campus to be effective through June 30, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Behavioral Health is primarily funding the ongoing project operational costs through Medi-Cal, private insurance, County realignment, MHSAs funds, guaranteed-bed fees from SNMH, and patient payment revenues received for treatment of patients in the CSU. This Amendment No. 7 extends the existing financial arrangements through June 30, 2024. Services are planned for in the Department's budget. There are no County general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Supervisors approved this Operational Agreement on February 10, 2015 per Resolution 15-067. The Agreement established the financial arrangement and delineated the roles and responsibilities of the County and SNMH related to operation of the Crisis Stabilization (CSU). Under the Agreement the County is responsible for: purchase of the modular building as well as all furniture/equipment; operational oversight including: staffing, which is provided by the County's contracted provider, Sierra Mental Wellness Group; billing for crisis stabilization services; processes and procedures for admission; discharge and treatment intervention; reserving three beds for SNMH, and ensuring compliance of the CSU in accordance with state regulations and guidelines. The Hospital provides medical screening exams, meals/nutritional services, environmental services including cleaning of rooms, linens, security, and utilities for the CSU.

This CSU provides brief psychiatric intervention services lasting less than 24 hours, for persons 18 and older, who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis, and includes serving individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders. Services include a physical and mental health assessment, collateral, and therapy services and utilization of a physician's assessment, medical backup, nursing, and crisis peer counseling services. The goal of crisis stabilization is to:

- Improve access to the most appropriate treatment resources, and decrease the utilization of hospital emergency departments, jails and homeless programs for behavioral health emergencies;
- Provide timely aid to de-escalate the crisis episode and stabilize patients quickly and assist them to return to their pre-crisis level of functioning;
- Reduce the number of days of inpatient hospital stays and costs; and
- Increase patients' ability to receive treatment within their community and to engage in local support systems.

As outlined in the Operational Agreement, the County purchases certain services related to operation of the CSU from the hospital such as meals/nutritional services, environmental services, security, and utilities. The hospital agrees to reimburse the County annually for the guarantee of three (3) dedicated beds in the CSU. The payment obligations of each party will be reviewed annually, based on actual project costs and revenues of the immediate prior year.

Since opening in December of 2015, the County and SNMH have re-determined the operational costs and made adjustments accordingly to reflect the actual needs and costs of the CSU. This Amendment No. 6 amends the Financial Arrangement Exhibit "B" to reflect an annual estimated budget that is more closely aligned with actual costs of operation to date.

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Amendment as this project provides an essential resource for Nevada County families, helps mental health consumers stabilize, and supports them in their recovery and wellness in a safe, secure community-based environment and serves as an alternative option to longer, more expensive hospitalization services.

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