



# NEVADA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

## Health and Human Services Agency

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## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#### Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** May 27, 2025

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 8 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, 2027.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Behavioral Health is primarily funding the ongoing project operational costs through Medi-Cal, private insurance, County realignment, MHSA funds, guaranteed-bed fees from SNMH, and patient payment revenues received for treatment of patients in the CSU. This Amendment No. 8 extends the existing financial arrangements through June 30, 2027. 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 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 annual adjustments accordingly to reflect the actual needs and costs of the CSU. This Amendment No. 8 amends the Financial Arrangement Exhibit "B" to reflect a 3 year financial arrangement that should align with actual costs of operation.

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Amendment which locks in fiscal amounts for three years versus the previous annual 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.

**Approved by:** Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director