



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services**  
**Agency Director**  
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**Behavioral Health Director:**  
***Phebe Bell, MSW***

**Behavioral Health Medical 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**

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**MEETING DATE:** September 27, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phebe Bell

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving Agreement 21-79015-000 accepting funds from the California Department of State Hospitals for community based return to competency program for individuals with serious mental illness who have been charged with certain crimes in the maximum revenue amount of \$1,436,000 for the contract term of June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The funding is from the California Department of State Hospitals to implement a pilot diversion program for individuals who have been found or have potential to be found incompetent to stand trial. A budget amendment will be included when the expenditure contracts are brought before the board for approval.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of State Hospitals (DSH) has seen increasing referrals for placements in its hospitals of individuals who have been found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST), often times resulting in long waitlists for placement and long lengths of stay in local jails. DSH is partnering with counties to implement a new diversion program geared toward individuals who have been found or have potential to be found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) due to serious mental illness who have been charged with a felony who may be able to be more suitably treated within the community. Through this grant program, DSH has awarded funding to participating counties for 3-year pilot programs to serve eligible individuals in the community.

For its initial program, Nevada County Behavioral Health (NCBH) will assess referred felony defendants who are, or who are at risk of being deemed IST. If criteria are met, the defense

attorney will typically refer for diversion an individual who does not pose an unreasonable risk of safety to the community. NCBH and the Probation department will assess the individual for appropriateness for the program and will make a recommendation to the courts. If diversion is granted, NCBH, treatment providers, and Probation will work together to connect people with mental illness who are charged with a felony to services and treatment, with a goal of keeping them out of jail and enabling them to live safely in the community. This contract will specifically provide funding for Nevada County to provide new housing supported by onsite staff and services to program participants experiencing homelessness or in need of more supportive housing. Nevada County may serve up to 8 individuals in its Felony Mental Health Diversion program under this initial agreement.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it allows for more timely access to care and provides individuals with severe mental illness with the treatment and services they need to remain safely in the community.

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