



NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Welcome Home Vets, Inc. for the securing of psychotherapy services for the veteran population of Nevada County in the maximum amount of \$31,500 for Fiscal Year 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services will be funded from CSS (Community Services and Supports) dollars received from the State as a component of the County's approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan. Contract services were planned for in the FY 2019/20 Department budget and there are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: Veterans and their families have historically had higher levels of mental health problems as compared to the general population. Research findings have long shown that the rate of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) occurring in combat veterans is significant. Research has also demonstrated that the partners of veterans with Military-Related Psychological Trauma (MRPT) diagnoses, such as PTSD and Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), can experience immense stress and are at greater risk of developing mental health problems than spouses of veterans who do not have those problems.

Veterans with MRPT are an underserved group in Nevada County. The nearest VA hospital is more than fifty miles away, and the psychotherapy and other mental health services being offered there are very limited.

Under this Agreement, Welcome Home Vets will continue to secure and refer appropriate military veterans and their immediate family members/significant others for psychotherapy services. The modality of therapies provided will include: individual, family, couple and group.

This program is directed at a target population that is at high risk for suicide, incarceration, homelessness and often may require psychiatric hospitalization one or more times during their lifetime. All services will be provided by or provided with oversight by therapists who are trained and experienced in serving a population affected by military-related trauma. The Welcome Home Vets Program will fill in the gaps in services for this population, providing treatment necessary for the veteran to start or continue recovery and for family members to develop and strengthen resilience.

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