



Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with SPIRIT - Peers for Independence and Recovery, Inc., in the maximum amount of \$567,824, for Fiscal Year 2025/26, for operation of SPIRIT's Mental Health Peer Empowerment Center and Commons Resource Center and for enhancement of services related to the County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: This contract is contingent upon the adoption of the fiscal year 2025/26 County Budget; services are primarily funded from MHSA monies made available to Behavioral Health Services and included in the Department's fiscal year 2025/26 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 MHSA Community Services and Supports 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. This year's renewal brings new capacity to SPIRIT's ability to deliver services, as SPIRIT will be moving into the Commons Resource Center. The new center will provide a larger facility, with expanded capacity to deliver peer support and vital basic services. 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 mental health services and reach out to the community to provide education about mental health services and mental health illness to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
- ❖ Engage those experiencing homelessness by offering basic services, including showers and laundry.
- ❖ Provide outreach to both unserved and underserved individuals with mental 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 in interacting with the media, potential employers, and other community agencies. 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 the underserved, helps to improve outcomes for participants, promotes education and individual advocacy, and provides resource and referral guidance.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director