



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services  
Agency Director  
Ryan Gruver**

**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:** June 14, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phebe Bell

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with FREED Independent Living Center, D/B/A FREED for services related to the “Friendly Visitor” Program in the total maximum amount of \$63,022 for the term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Services are funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) monies made available to Nevada County for the PEI (Prevention and Early Intervention) component of Nevada County’s MHSA Plan. PEI funding is intended to support strategies to help identify and increase prevention efforts and responses to early signs of emotional and behavioral health problems among specific at-risk populations. Services are included in the Department’s fiscal year 2022/23 budget and there are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** FREED CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING supports independent living for adults with disabilities and older adults. Under this Agreement, FREED operates the Friendly Visitor program, which provides trained volunteers to visit isolated seniors or adults with disabilities. Additionally, this agreement supports the Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives (PEARLS), an evidence-based program to support seniors who have screened for moderate to severe depression. The PEARLS program aims to reduce symptoms of depression and suicidal ideation and improve quality of life through problem-solving treatment, social and physical activation, and pleasant activity scheduling through six to eight 50-minute sessions in the individual’s home or other community setting.

It is recommended that the Board approves this contract, as it builds community capacity and collaboration for providing mental health intervention and for addressing existing and emerging

problems in the County's older adults and adults with disabilities population.

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