



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

Health & Human Services  
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Interim Behavioral Health  
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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2018

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phebe Bell

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of Amendment #1 to the renewal contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group pursuant to revising requirements of Crisis Workers and increasing the maximum contract price from \$927,432 to \$972,108 (an increase of \$44,676) for the provision of crisis intervention and community client services for Fiscal Year 2017/18 and authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Behavioral Health Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18. (4/5 vote required)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** These services are mandated. The contract is supported by Realignment, Medi-Cal reimbursement, SB 82 grant funds and MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Funding. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

A budget amendment is included and requires a 4/5 vote by the Board Members.

**BACKGROUND:** Per Resolution 17-295, the Board approved a renewal contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for mandated crisis and intervention services for fiscal year 2017/18. Crisis services are case-driven initial evaluation and referral services for patients needing immediate mental health crisis intervention. The therapeutic response may be accomplished by phone and/or face to face contacts. The response encompasses multiple functions including evaluations according to Section 5150 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, to evaluate whether or not a patient is a danger to themselves or others or unable to function in the

community. If needed, the Crisis Workers are responsible for assisting in the admission and paperwork completion for the patient to a 5150 facility designated by the County.

Services may also involve direct counseling and/or mental status assessments, information regarding mental health services and referrals to alternative resources, assisting clients in obtaining other social or human services as required, and consultation with referring agencies or client's significant others, as well as, maintaining after hours phone coverage for the County's Truckee Clinic.

Crisis Workers provide assessments and evaluations of Mental Health clients at the Behavioral Health Clinic, Jail, Juvenile Hall, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital emergency room, Tahoe Forest Hospital and/or other designated areas. Crisis Workers respond and triage each case according to the individual's needs, providing immediate brief intervention and follow-up for people experiencing emotional crisis in their lives. In cases of protracted crisis admissions, Contractor shall also provide supplemental support staff to assist in the process.

Pursuant to this amendment, the requirements for Crisis Workers are revised to conform to the requirements per Department of Health Care Services Information Notice 17-040. The updated requirements state Crisis Workers must be license eligible unless they are currently enrolled in a graduate program in behavioral sciences, psychology, sociology or a related field, and have both graduate courses in Assessment and Diagnosis, and training in these areas sufficient to operate in the role of license eligible staff. Updated requirements also state Crisis Workers who have a Bachelor's Degree in behavioral sciences and at least two years crisis related experience may complete crisis evaluations and select components of assessments, but they may not complete diagnoses and must work at the same time as Master's level or graduate school staff who can complete required components of the assessment and the diagnosis.

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