



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 15, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mike Dent

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Foothills House of Hospitality, d/b/a Hospitality House for funding to provide Low-Barrier Shelter services to eligible participants in the maximum amount of \$170,000 for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funding is from the Housing and Community Services Division's ("HCD") allocated funds and state grant funds passed through from the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras. Funds are within the FY 2021/22 budget and there are no additional county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: Hospitality House traditionally has operated under a "High-Barrier" shelter model which includes policies that are considered by HUD and HCD to impose "barriers" that limit the ability of certain homeless individuals from accessing the shelter. This model existed based on limited resources and staffing limitations. For example, Hospitality House shelter guests are required to breathalyze, pass drug tests, not have any pets, and be cleared by the Grass Valley Police to be able to stay. For many guests, these barriers are not an issue, but for some these barriers mean they cannot access shelter services. Providing a Low Barrier option that removes these barriers for a limited number of guests will allow for individuals who have traditionally not accessed the shelter to seek shelter and engage in services.

In 2017, the County worked with Hospitality House to fund implementation of a Low Barrier Shelter model, providing a minimum of 11 Low Barrier beds. These beds are accessed through a separate entrance after the traditional shelter has conducted its normal intake of traditional guests. Those who access the Low Barrier Shelter model are not intermingled with the traditional shelter population. This is to ensure that shelter guests who are in recovery or otherwise sober are not

impacted adversely by Low Barrier guests. Low Barrier guests are provided dinner and have access to a separate restroom.

The County also worked with Hospitality House Shelter and Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (“SNMH”) to create a 4-bed recuperative care program located on the same site. Previous contracts for Low Barrier Shelter included grant funds from the SNMH Foundation to be used for the 4-bed recuperative care program. This arrangement was intended to last for three years. This contract year is the fourth year of the Low Barrier Shelter and does not include the SNMH Foundation funding. County staff is working with the shelter and the SNMH Foundation in support of the SNMH Foundation directly contracting with the shelter to provide the recuperative care program beds.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it will continue the improved shelter capacity and lowered-barriers to shelter participation, allowing more people experiencing homelessness to transition toward permanent housing solutions.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Mike Dent, Director of Child Support, Housing and Community Services