

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

DATE: October 11, 2011

SUBJECT: Amend Umbrella Contract for Hearing Officer Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve an amendment to the maximum payment authorization ("umbrella contract") with Gail Schulze, David J. Bills, and Donald T. Thommen to provide certification and capacity hearing services at the Cirby Hills Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), increasing the total not-to-exceed amount by \$8,710 for a revised aggregate total of \$36,210 for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

The Adult System of Care provided State-mandated crisis assessments to 2,310 persons during the 2010-11 fiscal year, and subsequent hospitalization to about half of these persons. Persons hospitalized are those assessed as being a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled due to a mental illness. Initial hospitalization is for a period of 72 hours. State mandates require review hearings for persons who dispute the involuntary hospitalization or are determined to need involuntary medication. Additionally, on March 24, 2009 the Board approved Resolution #2009-74 authorizing an additional 30-day hold due to grave disability which also requires a review hearing. The increase in hearing costs as a result of increased demand will be offset by the reduction in long-term hospital placements. The subject contract for hearing officer services satisfies the administrative necessity and legal requirement of due process to conduct these hearings.

Gail Schulze, David J. Bills, and Donald T. Thommen operate as independent contractors appointed by the court as hearing officers. During the 2010-11 fiscal year, 359 hearings were conducted, an increase of 33% from the prior fiscal year. These contractors have been providing satisfactory services as hearing officers to Placer County for the past ten years.

The umbrella contract option continues to be well suited for these services and allows the Department to maximize services between contractors and respond to increased service needs. The proposed contract amendment is necessary to cover anticipated expenses in the coming 2011-12 fiscal year based upon review of the previous fiscal year expenditures.

The hearing officers are compensated at \$60 per hearing, \$55 for same-day consecutive hearings, and reimbursed for mileage at the standard IRS rate.

The amendment was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board at its regular meeting on September 26, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The additional funding of \$8,710 for these mandated services represents an increase of 31% from the prior year. Funding is comprised of \$6,097 (70%) Federal and State funds and \$2,613 (30%) required County General Fund match. The cost for these services is included in the Department's FY 2011-12 Final Budget.

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