



M E M O R A N D U M
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 7, 2016

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Agreement with Sierra Mental Wellness Group

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Approve a two year agreement with Sierra Mental Wellness Group to provide Mental Health Crisis Services, Specialty Mental Health Services and Child Welfare Couples Counseling Services in the total amount of \$2,318,472 (net County cost \$370,955), for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services or designee to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed five percent of the total contract amount, consistent with the subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND

Sierra Mental Wellness Group (SMWG) is a long-standing and vital agency partner with Placer County in the areas of outpatient mental health services, emergency mental health crisis services and child welfare services. The mental health emergency psychiatric evaluations, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code §5150 are mandated services to allow for individuals with mental illness to receive involuntary inpatient psychiatric services should they be deemed to be a danger to themselves, a danger to others or gravely disabled. During FY 2014-15, Placer County was responsible for providing crisis intervention services to 3,249 children, adult and older adult residents. The demand for these crisis services continues to increase.

Services provided through this agreement include all activities related to the provision of mental health crisis responses in both western and eastern Placer County. SMWG provides mental health crisis response services in eastern Placer County, 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year, including weekends, holidays, and provides after hours coverage in western Placer County. This agreement supports an after-hours crisis response staff member to be on-site at Sutter Roseville Medical Center, where approximately 70 percent of crisis evaluations are completed, as well as crisis response staff available to Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, Tahoe Forest Hospital, Placer County Jail, and Juvenile Detention Facility when the need arises.

In addition, SMWG continues to provide mandated Specialty Mental Health Services to residents at both ends of the County to adults and older adults. During FY 2014-15, SMWG provided services to 2,700 recipients of these services. These mental health services, including medication management, are offered to qualified recipients who meet criteria for medical necessity. Specialty mental health services help those individuals with mental illness receive the appropriate treatment and referral for their needs and to avoid unnecessary and expensive higher levels of psychiatric care. Medication support services are a critical component of services offered to stabilize symptoms. SMWG was able to find and hire a psychiatrist in the Truckee/Tahoe region despite significant challenges with the nationwide and statewide shortages of psychiatrists. This service will significantly benefit those of the Tahoe/Truckee region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Revenue and expenditures for FY 2016-17 include \$959,377 (eighty-four percent) in Federal/State funds and \$182,739 (sixteen percent) in required County General Funds, and is included in the Department's FY 2016-17 Requested Budget. The remainder will be included in the Department's FY 2017-18 Requested Budget.

A copy of the contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

