

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care/Medical Clinics
DATE: June 16, 2015
SUBJECT: Contract Amendment with Sierra Mental Wellness Group for FY 2014-16

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve amendment to contract CN013468 with Sierra Mental Wellness Group (SMWG) to allow adjustments between budget lines, modify the scope of work to include infrequent critical incident debriefing counseling/support, and increase the psychiatrist/medication management billing rate from \$4.40/minute to \$5.56/minute, resulting in no change to the total contract amount of \$1,829,756, for the period of October 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the amendment and subsequent amendments not to exceed 10 percent of the contract amount, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND:

Placer County is mandated to provide comprehensive mental health crisis evaluations to children, adults and older adults in need of these services. Crisis evaluations determine the need for acute psychiatric hospitalization or referral to the appropriate level of care need at the time of service. Specialty mental health services, including medication support services, are also mandated mental health services offered to residents meeting medical necessity for these services. 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 hospitalization. Medication support services are critical in the continuum of specialty mental health services. The increase in rate per minute, from \$4.40/minute to \$5.56/minute is necessary due to higher than expected costs for psychiatry services. The nationwide shortage of psychiatrist has impacted the provider's ability to secure a provider for the Tahoe region. As a result, the provider has entered into an agreement to provide these services through tele-psychiatry. The increase in cost is reflective of this decision.

On rare occasions, a critical event, such as a completed suicide, occurs and significantly impacts communities, especially smaller communities, where the event takes place. This type of unfortunate incident occurred in the Eastern Placer County, Tahoe Region, and left the community in need of immediate critical incident debrief counseling and on-site support for students and staff at the school where the suicide victim attended.

During FY 2013-14, SMWG provided crisis evaluations for over 2,000 residents suffering an acute mental health crisis in both Western and Eastern County. The volume and complexity of these evaluations continues to increase and are anticipated to continue to increase through FY 2015-16, requiring additional resources to provide these services. SMWG also continues to provide specialty mental health services to those residents in both Western and Eastern County and will now be providing medication support services.

SMWG works collaboratively with Placer County to ensure that these various needs are addressed through the continuum of these mental health services. SMWG and Placer County have established a joint quality assurance and review process to regularly monitor and evaluate quality and key outcome measures, and plan to continue this process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no change to the total contract amount of \$1,829,756, and no increase to County General Fund cost.

This contract amendment is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

