



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

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 23, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Contract with Sierra Mental Wellness Group

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a one year agreement with Sierra Mental Wellness Group to provide Mental Health Crisis Services, Specialty Mental Health Services and Child Welfare Couples Counseling Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, and to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$100,000 consistent with the subject matter and scope of work with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.

**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 2018-19, Placer County was responsible for providing crisis intervention services to 3,319 children, adult and older adult residents. SMWG was responsible for conducting 2,221 of those evaluations. The demand for these crisis services continues to increase.

Services provided through this contract 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 at Tahoe Forest Hospital, 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year. In Western Placer County, SMWG provides after-hours crisis response coverage to requests from Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, both Placer County Jails, and the Juvenile Detention Facility.

In addition to mental health crisis services, SMWG continues to provide mandated Specialty Mental Health Services and Child Welfare Couples Counseling to residents in Western Placer County. During FY 2018-19, SMWG provided these services to 339 recipients. 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 and case management services are critical components of services offered to stabilize symptoms.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for this contract includes \$737,000 (67%) in Federal funding, \$33,000 (3%) in State funding and \$330,000 (30%) in County General Fund and is included in the Department's FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget.

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

