



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 22, 2021

FROM: Robert Oldham, MD, MHSA, Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Contract with Nevada County Behavioral Health for Crisis Stabilization Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a contract with Nevada County Behavioral Health Services in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, for short-term (23 hours or less) crisis stabilization services from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the contract with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, and to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$7,500, consistent with the subject matter and scope of work, with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.

BACKGROUND

Placer County Adult System of Care provides mandated mental health crisis intervention services to individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. During FY 2019-20, 3,311 individuals received crisis evaluation services and over half of those individuals required expensive inpatient psychiatric hospitalization at either the Placer County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) or at a private psychiatric hospital if the Placer County PHF was at capacity.

The Nevada County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is a 4-bed crisis program located in Grass Valley adjacent to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital and has been in operation since December 2015. Residents receive short-term psychiatric evaluation and treatment, including medication management, in a therapeutically safe and comfortable milieu for up to 23 hours. The majority of residents are then safely discharged back into the community with appropriate referrals and linkage to necessary mental health and other services. Nevada County currently contracts the operation of this program to Sierra Mental Wellness Group, which is a community based organization familiar to Placer County through other partnerships for contracted mental health crisis services.

The addition of this CSU continues to provide value due to the shortage of psychiatric beds across the State. Individuals in crisis often spend unnecessary hours in our overcrowded local emergency departments waiting for available psychiatric beds. The CSU alternative will continue to help reduce the burden of crowded emergency departments in our community. Further, this 23-hour model presents the option of short-term treatment and stabilization for those experiencing a mental health crisis and is considered a more favorable and cost-effective approach across the state as an alternative to the traditional expensive and lengthy inpatient psychiatric hospital model. Most of the individuals served at this facility do not require a higher level of care upon discharge and are safely returned home to their community.

It is anticipated that utilization of this service will mitigate the costs of expensive hospitalization options and thereby reducing the overall costs the County spends on mental health crisis services at the most restrictive and intensive levels.

FISCAL IMPACT

Expenditures are included in the Department's FY 2021-22 Budget and the funding for FY 2021-22 (\$37,500) is 60% Federal and State sources (\$27,375) and 40% (\$10,125) is County General Fund match. Funding for FY 2022-23 will be included in the FY 2022-23 budget.

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

