

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: December 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Contract Employee Agreement with Blair Romer, M.D. for Psychiatric Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract employee agreement with Blair Romer, M.D. as staff psychiatrist from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 with direct compensation of \$109,737, for a total compensation package not to exceed \$155,860, and authorize the Chairman to sign subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the original contract amount.

BACKGROUND:

The Adult System of Care (ASOC) provides unique and mandated mental health services, which includes specialty psychiatric services and specific medication services for adults and children receiving mental health services in Placer County. These specialized providers are strategically placed in both health and mental health programs in order to most effectively provide services while also leveraging Federal and State revenues.

This contract renews the services of Dr. Romer at the ASOC outpatient mental health clinic in Roseville. Dr. Romer was hired following a competitive process in 2008. He is a seasoned practitioner with extensive forensic experience and is Board Certified. He provides expert testimony at initiation and renewal of conservatorship court hearings. This court testimony is a mandated responsibility of ASOC Public Guardian program. Working closely with Public Guardian and mental health staff, Dr. Romer has ensured that guardianship and long term hospital care is reserved solely for the most vulnerable and psychiatrically disabled individuals. This team has been successful in reducing the cost of institutional care from \$2.1 million (FY07-08) to \$1.2 million (FY10-11) resulting in a savings of \$900,000 annually. Additionally, he will provide critical after-hours, on-call service four weeks per year.

The Adult System of Care has continued to prioritize services to those residents with the highest need to manage within available resources. Dr. Romer's experience with ASOC and his expertise with this specific population solidifies our restructuring of current resources to prioritize continuity of care in all critical service areas including medication management, direct services with patients and their families, consistency when interfacing with hospital emergency departments, law enforcement, Public Guardian and Telecare staff. Dr. Romer provides mandated specialty psychiatric services at the outpatient clinic for 300 residents with severe mental illness annually. Through this contract, Dr. Romer will provide 1,532 hours of services through a combination of his day and after-hours coverage.

The contract includes language that applies wage and/or benefit changes from recently approved FY 2010-11 negotiations. Personnel, County Counsel, and CEO's Office are fully supportive of this approach. This contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The direct compensation for the physician is \$109,737 with a total compensation package not to exceed \$155,860. Funding for this contract includes \$90,399 (58%) in Federal and State funds and \$65,461 (42%) in the required County General Fund match. Costs for the first six months of this contract are included in the Department's FY 2011-12 Final Budget, with costs for the remainder of the contract term to be budgeted in the FY 2012-13 Base Budget.

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

