



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 12/19/2023

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File #: 23-1560

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** DHHS: Behavioral Health

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**SUBJECT:**

Professional Services Agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. Regarding the Provision of Outpatient Therapy Services to Children and Adults Suffering from Mental Illness

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute, the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. regarding the provision of outpatient therapy services to children and adults suffering from mental illness in an amount not to exceed Two Million One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,198,400.00) for the period of December 19, 2023 through June 30, 2026;
2. Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Director, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments to the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc., after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management and the County Administrative Office; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the board to return one (1) fully executed original copy of the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc to the Department of Health and Human Services - Contract Unit for further processing.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Behavioral Health Fund (1170-424)

**DISCUSSION:**

Despite the County of Humboldt's ongoing recruitment efforts, the Department of Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health ("DHHS - Behavioral Health") continues to experience significant difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified licensed clinical staff to provide mandated mental health treatment services. Due to the shortage of available behavioral health treatment providers, the United States Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources and Services Administration defines Humboldt County as a federally designated Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Area. However, this shortage in specialty behavioral health care providers is not endemic to Humboldt

County or limited to the northern region of the state. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - Center for Integrated Health Solutions states that “rural communities have a chronic shortage of behavioral health providers and limited access to services.”

The attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc., doing business as Iris Telehealth Medical Group, will allow eligible DHHS - Behavioral Health clients to receive certain outpatient therapy services for the period of December 19, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Accordingly, DHHS - Behavioral Health recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute, the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. regarding the provision of outpatient therapy services to children and adults suffering from mental illness for the period of December 19, 2023 through June 30, 2026. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the DHHS - Behavioral Health Director, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments to the attached professional services agreement with Iris Telehealth Medical Group, after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management and the County Administrative Office, in order to avoid any unnecessary delays in the provision of needed outpatient therapy services.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

<b>Expenditures (1170-424)</b>	<b>FY23-24 Adopted</b>	<b>FY24-25 Projected</b>	<b>FY25-26 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses	\$388,800.00	\$904,800.00	\$904,800.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$388,800.00</b>	<b>\$904,800.00</b>	<b>\$904,800.00</b>
<b>Funding Sources (1170-424)</b>	<b>FY23-24 Adopted</b>	<b>FY24-25 Projected*</b>	<b>FY25-26 Projected*</b>
State/Federal Funds	\$388,800.00	\$904,800.00	\$904,800.00
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$388,800.00</b>	<b>\$904,800.00</b>	<b>\$904,800.00</b>

*\*Projected amounts are estimates and are subject to change.*

The attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. has a maximum amount payable of Two Million One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,198,400.00) for the period of December 19, 2023 through June 30, 2026. In no event shall the maximum amount paid under the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. exceed Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$388,800.00) for fiscal year 2023-2024 and Nine Hundred Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$904,800.00) per fiscal year for fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. However, in the event local, state or federal funding is reduced or eliminated, the County of Humboldt may reduce the above-referenced maximum amount payable or terminate the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. in its entirety.

Expenditure appropriations related to the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. have been included in the approved fiscal year 2023-2024 budget for DHHS - Behavioral Health Administration budget unit (1170-424). Funding for the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. is available through the federal Medi-Cal and Medicare programs, state realignment for mental health managed care and early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment and Mental Health Services Act revenues received by DHHS - Behavioral Health. As a

result, approval of the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. will not impact the Humboldt County General Fund.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Approval of the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. will not impact current staffing levels.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

The recommended actions support the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Framework by protecting vulnerable populations, creating opportunities for improved safety and health and providing community-appropriate levels of service.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board may choose not to approve the attached professional services agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. regarding the provision of outpatient therapy services to children and adults suffering from mental illness. However, this alternative is not recommended since it would cause a reduction in available services in DHHS - Behavioral Health's children and adult outpatient clinics.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Professional Services Agreement with Thomas Milam MD, Inc. Regarding the Provision of Outpatient Therapy Services to Children and Adults Suffering from Mental Illness

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A