



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Legislation Text

File #: 19-1059, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors

From: DHHS: Mental Health

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Professional Services Agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation, Regarding the Provision of Licensed Personnel to Fill Various Psychiatrist Positions at Department of Health and Human Services - Mental Health Facilities

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute, the attached professional services agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation, regarding the provision of licensed personnel to fill various psychiatrist positions at Department of Health and Human Services - Mental Health facilities for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020;
2. Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services - Mental Health Director, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments to the attached professional services agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation, 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 fully executed original copy of the attached professional services agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation, to the Department of Health and Human Services - Contract Unit.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Mental Health Fund

DISCUSSION:

On June 26, 2018 (Item C-20), the Board of Supervisors approved the current professional services agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation (TBH), regarding the provision of licensed personnel to fill various psychiatrist positions at Department of Health and Human Services - Mental Health (DHHS - Mental Health) facilities for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Despite the County of Humboldt's ongoing recruitment efforts, DHHS - Mental Health continues to

experience significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified psychiatrists to provide mandated mental health treatment services. Due to the shortage of available psychiatrists and other 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 (HPSA). Mental Health HPSAs are based on a psychiatrist to population ratio of 1:30,000. 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 "rural communities have a chronic shortage of behavioral health providers and limited access to services."

The attached professional services agreement with TBH will allow for the placement of one full-time equivalent (FTE) Mental Health Medical Director, two FTE adult outpatient Psychiatrists, one FTE children's outpatient Psychiatrist and approximately 4.4 FTE inpatient Psychiatrists for Sempervirens and the Crisis Stabilization Unit. It should be noted that the attached professional services agreement with TBH comes to the Board after the start date thereof due to inadvertent delays that occurred during the contract negotiation process.

Accordingly, DHHS - Mental Health recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute, the attached professional services agreement with TBH regarding the provision of licensed personnel to fill various psychiatrist positions at DHHS - Mental Health facilities for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the DHHS - Mental Health Director, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments to the attached professional services agreement with TBH, after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management and the County Administrative Office, in order to avoid unnecessary delays in the provision of needed mental health services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The attached professional services agreement with TBH has a maximum amount payable of \$4,825,000 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The maximum amount payable for the services provided pursuant to the terms and conditions of the attached professional services agreement with TBH includes the salary and administrative costs associated with the personnel provided. If 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 TBH in its entirety.

Expenditure appropriations related to the attached professional services agreement with TBH have been included in the proposed fiscal year 2019-20 budgets for DHHS - Mental Health budget units 1170-424, 1170-495 and 1170-498. Funding for the attached professional services agreement with TBH is available through federal Medi-Cal, Drug Medi-Cal and Medicare, state realignment for mental health managed care and early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment and Mental Health Services Act revenues received by DHHS - Mental Health. As a result, approval of the attached professional services agreement with TBH will not impact the Humboldt County General Fund.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

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

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose not to approve the attached professional services agreement with TBH regarding the provision of licensed personnel to fill various positions at DHHS - Mental Health facilities. However, this alternative is not recommended since it will not allow DHHS - Mental Health to continue providing state mandated mental health treatment and medication services.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Professional Services Agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health, a Psychological Corporation, Regarding the Provision of Licensed Personnel to Fill Various Psychiatrist Positions at DHHS - Mental Health Facilities.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: C-12, H-2, C-11, C-10, C-20

Meeting of: 12/14/99, 3/17/15, 4/5/16, 6/6/17, 6/26/18

File No.: N/A