

June 6, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director to Sign, an Agreement with Guiding Our Youth, for Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) Services, in the Amount of \$884,000, Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Sign, an Agreement with For The Future, Inc. for STRTP Services, in the Amount of \$677,000, Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Sign, an Agreement with New Way Group Home, for STRTP Services, in the Amount of \$522,000, Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; Authorization for the VCBH Director to Approve Limited Modifications and to Extend the Term of the Agreements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, an agreement with Guiding Our Youth for Medi-Cal short term residential treatment program (STRTP) services, in the maximum amount of \$884,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, an agreement with For The Future, Inc. for Medi-Cal STRTP services, in the maximum amount of \$677,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
3. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, an agreement with New Way Group Home, for Medi-Cal STRTP services, in the maximum amount of \$522,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
4. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve amendments and modifications to decrease the amount of each agreement, to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreement, to approve modifications to the Provider Service Rates and Current Procedural

Terminology (CPT) Codes Table in the agreements that do not increase the amount of the agreements, to approve corrections, clarifications, modifications, and technical changes to each agreement (including additions and revisions required by the California Department of Health Care Services) so long as the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreements, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

5. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreements referenced in Recommendation #1, up to two (2) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each time, on the same or more favorable terms and conditions (with any changes in the scope of work to be consistent with the original purpose of the agreements), and for an amount not to exceed the pro rata amounts of (a) each agreement amount and (b) any Board-approved increase made to each agreement amount during FY 2023-24. All extensions are subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by your Board and to review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

MHL Budget Unit #3200-3205 (Youth & Family)

Mandatory: No [X] Yes [] Cite Authority: Continuum of Care Reform

Source of Funding: Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) Federal Financial Participation (FFP); 2011 Realignment (Trust N520-719C) and 1991 Realignment (Trust N510-717C)

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$0	\$2,083,000
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$0	\$2,083,000
Indirect – Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$2,083,000
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2022-23 Adjusted Budget for MHL Youth & Family BU #3200-3205				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$47,074,392	\$50,192,279	\$39,895,434	\$10,296,845

Revenue	\$47,074,393	\$47,252,403	\$39,765,198	(\$7,487,205)
Net Cost	(\$1)	\$2,939,876	\$130,236	\$2,809,640

Note: Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2023-24 preliminary budget for Youth & Family Budget Unit 3200-3205.

DISCUSSION:

Recommendation #1:

Guiding Our Youth provides STRTP services to youth in two six (6) bed facilities for a total of twelve (12) beds. Youth receive structured group activities focused on supporting and improving behavior management skills, impulse control, feelings identification and regulation, interpersonal and relationship skills, and help in developing an internal locus of control. The structured therapeutic program includes mental health services, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services. Since July 2022, Guiding Our Youth has served 30 residential treatment youth. Providers have successfully transitioned from group home to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs. They work arduously to adhere to all State regulatory requirements and collaborate closely with partnering agencies.

The proposed FY 2023-24 agreement with Guiding Our Youth is for a one-year term (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) and represents an increase of \$132,784 over their previous agreement due to inflationary pressures on wages and direct operating costs. In addition, the proposed agreement also includes substantial contract boilerplate language, rate, and claiming methodology revisions that stem from VCBH's implementation of the State driven/required California Advancing and Innovation Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. CalAIM, is a California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) initiative to reform and transform the Medi-Cal program by implementing a broad delivery system, program and payment reform, and knowledge learned from various successful pilot programs to transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Essentially, the contract changes reflect CalAIM's shift away from claiming and reimbursement rates that are no longer cost-based interim rates but rather final payment rates that utilize standardized codes for clinical services provided by licensed and non-licensed professionals for services that are in their scope of practice, and other service requirements that are designed to improve outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. This agreement is funded with Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) Federal Financial Partnership (FFP) and Realignment.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the proposed agreement for STRTP services with Guiding Our Youth, in the maximum amount of \$884,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Recommendation #2:

For The Future, Inc. provides STRTP services for youth in one facility for a total of 6 beds. Youth receive structured group activities focused on supporting and improving behavior management skills, impulse control, feelings identification and regulation, interpersonal and relationship skills, and help in developing an internal locus of control. The structured therapeutic program includes mental health services, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services. Since July 2022, For the Future, Inc. has served 17 residential treatment youth. Providers have successfully transitioned from group home to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs. They work arduously to adhere to all State regulatory requirements and collaborate closely with partnering agencies.

The proposed FY 2023-24 agreement with For The Future is for a one-year term (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) and represents an increase of \$130,542 over the previous agreement due to inflationary pressures on wages and direct operating costs. In addition, the proposed agreement also includes substantial contract boilerplate language, rate, and claiming methodology revisions that stem from VCBH's implementation of the State driven/required California Advancing and Innovation Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. CalAIM, is a California Department of Health Care Services initiative to reform and transform the Medi-Cal program by implementing a broad delivery system, program and payment reform, and knowledge learned from various successful pilot programs to transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Essentially, the contract changes reflect CalAIM's shift away from claiming and reimbursement rates that are no longer cost-based interim rates but rather final payment rates that utilize standardized codes for clinical services provided by licensed and non-licensed professionals for services that are in their scope of practice, and other service requirements that are designed to improve outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the proposed agreement for STRTP services with For The Future, Inc., in the maximum amount of \$677,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Recommendation #3:

New Way Group Home provides STRTP services for youth in two (2) six (6) bed facilities for a total of twelve (12) beds. Youth receive structured group activities focused on supporting and improving behavior management skills, impulse control, feelings identification and regulation, interpersonal and relationship skills, and help in developing an internal locus of control. The structured therapeutic program includes mental health services, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services. Since July 2022, New Way Group Home has served 24

residential treatment youth. Providers have successfully transitioned from group home to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs. They work arduously to adhere to all State regulatory requirements and collaborate closely with partnering agencies.

The proposed FY 2023-24 agreement with New Way Group Home is for a one-year term (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) and represents an increase of \$25,510 over the previous agreement due to inflationary pressures on wages and direct operating costs. In addition, the proposed Agreement also includes substantial contract boilerplate language, rate, and claiming methodology revisions that stem from VCBH's implementation of the State driven/required California Advancing and Innovation Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. CalAIM, is a California Department of Health Care Services initiative to reform and transform the Medi-Cal program by implementing a broad delivery system, program and payment reform, and knowledge learned from various successful pilot programs to transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Essentially, the contract changes reflect CalAIM's shift away from claiming and reimbursement rates that are no longer cost-based interim rates but rather final payment rates that utilize standardized codes for clinical services provided by licensed and non-licensed professionals for services that are in their scope of practice, and other service requirements that are designed to improve outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the proposed agreement for STRTP services with New Way Group Home, in the maximum amount of \$522,000, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.


Recommendation #4:

In order to quickly respond to changes needed to achieve agreement goals and ensure costs are maintained within available funding and budgets, VCBH also requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications to decrease the amount of the agreements listed in Recommendations #1 to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreements, to approve modifications to the Provider Services Rates and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes Table in the Agreements that do not increase the amount of the agreements, or to approve corrections, clarifications, modifications, and technical changes to the agreements (including additions and revisions required by DHCS) so long as the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreements, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

Recommendation #5:

VCBH requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreements referenced in Recommendation #1, up to two (2) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each time, on the same or more favorable terms and conditions (with any changes in the Scope of Work to be consistent with the original purpose of the Agreement), and for an amount not to exceed the pro rata amounts of (a) each agreement amount and (b) any Board-approved increased made to each agreement amount within FY 2023-24. All extensions are subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by your Board and to review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact VCBH Director Scott Gilman at (805) 981-2214 or Health Care Agency Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.


SCOTT GILMAN, MSA
Behavioral Health Director


BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – FY 2023-24 Guiding Our Youth – Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – FY 2023-24 For the Future, Inc. – Agreement
- Exhibit 3 – FY 2023-24 New Way Group Home – Agreement