

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

September 12, 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, the Agreement with the City of Simi Valley for VCBH to Provide Mental Health Outreach and Engagement Services, in the Amount of \$145,945, Effective September 17, 2023, through June 30, 2024; Authorization for the VCBH Director to Make Limited Amendments and to Extend the Term of the Agreement.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, the agreement with the City of Simi Valley for VCBH to provide mental health outreach and engagement services, in the amount of \$145,945, effective September 17, 2023, through June 30, 2024. (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications, corrections, clarifications, and technical changes to the agreement, provided any such modification, correction, clarification, or change is consistent with the original purpose of the agreement; does not result in additional costs to the County; and is reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.
3. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreement two (2) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each time, on the same or more favorable terms and conditions, provided (i) any change in the scope of work is consistent with the original purpose of the agreement, and (ii) the agreement is reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

**MHSA Budget Unit #3260-3273 (CSS Adult Services)**

Mandatory: No [x] Yes [ ] Cite Authority:  
 Source of Funding: Proposition 63 MHSA Funds Short-Doyle Medi-Cal (SDMC)  
Federal Financial Participation (FFP);  
 Funding Match Required: None  
 Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$145,945	\$145,945
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$145,945	\$145,945
Indirect – Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$145,945	\$145,945
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget for MHS CSS Adult Services BU #3260-3273</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/ (Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$53,846,119	\$53,846,119	\$53,846,119	\$0
Revenue	\$52,705,680	\$52,705,680	\$52,705,680	\$0
Net Cost	\$1,140,439	\$1,140,439	\$1,140,439	\$0

Note: Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY2023-24 adopted budget for MHS CSS Adult Services Budget Unit 3260-3273.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Recommendation #1:**

The VCBH Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) Program began in 2014 and is responsible for providing community outreach, engagement, and other related services to ensure that individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) can access and are connected to mental health and other supportive services, either at a VCBH facility or a community-based organization. RISE Program employees do not respond to emergency situations or individuals experiencing crises, and thus do not involuntarily detain individuals for evaluation and treatment that are a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled, under Welfare and Institutions Code

section 5150. The goal of the RISE Program is to engage with individuals and connect them with care to avoid emergencies and crises.

Since September 19, 2021, a VCBH RISE Program employee has been working with the City of Simi Valley (City) and the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) on a part-time basis to provide outreach and engagement services to individuals with mental health conditions that are high utilizers of SVPD services. The RISE Program employee is also known as the Community Services Coordinator. More specifically, the Community Services Coordinator has delivered field-based community outreach, engagement, and case management services within the City in collaboration with the SVPD, including but not limited to non-emergent follow-up care and referrals with the goal of engaging and stabilizing high utilizers of SVPD services and linking them to the appropriate level of mental health care or other supportive services.

The proposed agreement (Exhibit 1) describes the scope of services to be provided, the responsibilities of each party, and the payment parameters for the dedication of a single, full-time RISE Program employee to work and collaborate exclusively with the City and the SVPD. The amount of the agreement (\$145,945), to be paid by the City to the County, is intended to cover the County's full cost of committing a RISE Program employee to perform under the agreement. Although the County/VCBH will invoice services monthly, the agreement allows the City to pay on a quarterly basis. The agreement includes an initial term that begins on September 17, 2023, and ends on June 30, 2024, but allows for the term to be extended for two additional fiscal year periods through FY 2025-26. The agreement was approved unanimously by the Simi Valley City Council at its July 31, 2023, meeting.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the agreement with the City for VCBH to provide a Community Services Coordinator and related mental health outreach and engagement services, in the amount of \$145,945, effective September 17, 2023, through June 30, 2024. (Exhibit 1).

**Recommendation #2:**

VCBH also recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications, corrections, clarifications, and technical changes to the agreement, provided any such modification, correction, clarification, or change is consistent with the original purpose of the agreement; does not result in additional costs to the County; and is reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

**Recommendation #3:**

VCBH further recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreement up to two times, for a period of no more than one year each time, on the same or more favorable terms and conditions (with any change in the agreement to be consistent with its original purpose), subject 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 Acting Behavioral Health Director Dr. Loretta Denering, Dr. PH, MS at (805) 981-2214 or Health Care Agency Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.



DR. LORETTA L. DENERING, DR. PH., MS  
Acting Behavioral Health Director



BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – FY 2023-24 City of Simi Valley CSC Services - Agreement