

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

June 3, 2025

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

**Subject:** Approval of, Three New Agreements with Nate’s Place, Pacific Clinics and United Parents, for the Provision of Various Mental Health Services, in the Combined Maximum Amount of \$938,087, Effective July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026; Approval of, a Third Amendment to the Agreement with the Health Care Foundation of Ventura County, Inc., for Funded Educational Stipend, Basic Needs Program Funding Supports and Administration Services, in the Maximum Amount of \$505,138 (an Increase of \$128,225 from FY 2024-25), Effective July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026. **(Levine Act Item)**

**Recommendations:**

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, three new Agreement with Nate’s Place (Nate’s Place), Pacific Clinics and United Parents, for the provision of various Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Services, in the combined maximum contract amount of \$938,087, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. (Exhibit 1-3)

Exhibit #	Contractor	Service Description	FY 2025-26 Proposed Contract Amount	Division Number
1	Nate’s Place	Prevention and early Intervention (PEI)	\$276,550	3260
2	Pacific Clinics	Individual Placement and Support (IPS)	\$414,311	3260
3	United Parents	PEI	\$247,226	3260
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$938,087</b>	

2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Third Amendment to the Agreement with the Health Care Foundation of Ventura County, Inc. (HCFVC), for Funded Educational Stipend, Basic Needs Program Funding Supports and Administration Services, in the maximum amount of \$505,138 (an increase of \$128,225 from FY 2024-25), effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. (Exhibit 4)
3. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to amend the agreements in Recommendation #1 to (a) decrease the amount of the agreement, (b) make

contractual budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreements, and (c) make corrections, clarifications and technical changes to the agreements, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreements and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval as to form.

4. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreements in Recommendation #1, for two fiscal years for periods of one year each, 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). All extensions would be subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by your Board and review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

**Fiscal Impact\*:**

**MHSA Division #3260**

	FY 2025-26
Revenues	\$1,443,225
Costs	\$1,443,225
Net County Cost	\$0

Funding Sources: Proposition 63 MHSA, Mentored Internship Program (MIP) Grant and Southern County Regional Partnership (SCRIP) Pipeline

Match Requirement: None

\* Sufficient revenue and appropriations are available in the preliminary proposed FY25-26 budget subject to Board approval.

**Discussion:**

**Background:**

In January of 2023, a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), along with a Community Program Planning Process was conducted. Results were published on the County's official website along with the most recent MHSA 3-year Plan 2023-2026 (MHSA 3-year Plan). The MHSA 3-year Plan and needs assessment report both identified several potential services that would address unmet service needs throughout Ventura County. On November 7, 2024, VCBH issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking new contractors to provide mental health focused events/conferences, mental health services and/or prevention programs for underserved populations, a teen drop-in center focused on serving youth with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for ages 13-19, and employment placement services for adults with serious mental illness. As a result of the RFP, VCBH has awarded new agreements to the providers outlined in the discussion section below.

### **Recommendation #1**

**Nate's Place:** will provide a teen drop-in center, located in Oxnard, serving youth aged 13 through 19 years with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and who may be first generation or immigrant youth, at risk of experiencing a mental health crisis, or homelessness, emancipated or foster youth, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning or Plus (LGBTQ+) youth, and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Color) youth.

Under the proposed new agreement, Nate's Place will provide services that address ACEs by teaching coping skills, fostering resilience, and providing essential support for teens through peer support, additional workshops, counseling groups, recreational activities, and family engagement. This agreement will be funded by MHSAs.

**Pacific Clinics:** will provide IPS services. IPS is an evidenced based model of supported employment for people living with serious mental illness to work at regular jobs of their choosing. This is done through job skill development, individualized job searching, and on-going job retention support.

Under the proposed new agreement, Pacific Clinics will support individuals in the community with severe mental illness to find meaningful employment. IPS will also help to create equity in the workplace for all members of the community, regardless of mental health symptoms. This agreement will be funded by MHSAs.

**United Parents:** will provide mental health services to underserved populations ages 3-25, experiencing emotional, behavioral, mental health, and/or family challenges. Educational Advocates (EAs), based out of United Parent's Oxnard and Fillmore Drop-in Center locations, will provide enhanced parent/caregiver training programs, additional support groups, and implement a comprehensive data collection and evaluation system. The EAs are well versed in Trauma-Informed Care, cultural competency, and systems navigation.

Under the proposed new agreement, United Parents will address disparities in access to mental health and educational systems for underserved families, with a focus on early intervention, culturally competent services, and system navigation. This agreement will be funded by MHSAs.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, three new Agreements with Nate's Place, Pacific Clinics, and United Parents, for the provision of various MHSAs services in the combined maximum amount of the agreement of \$938,087, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

## **Recommendation #2**

**HCFVC:** provides administration and payment disbursement services for the following activities: (1) Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRP) and MHSA Workforce Education and Training (WET) funded internship stipends for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in clinical behavioral health fields at an educational institution with which VCBH has a memorandum of understanding, and who are receiving their clinical practicum experience at VCBH, (2) MHSA funded Full-Service Partnership (FSP), Rapid Integration Support and Engagement (RISE) and Ventura County Power Over Psychosis (VCPOP) programs. HCFVC provides basic needs payment services for provision of items such as clothes, food, and housing, and for FSP "Whatever It Takes" purposes. VCPOP treats 12-25-year-olds county-wide who are experiencing psychosis for the first time, and (3) MHSA funded housing fund services for clients in immediate need of financial assistance to access supplemental housing resources, such as application fees, moving expenses and utilities. HCFVC serves as the fiscal agent for these funds and makes payments to VCBH for selected service providers, on behalf of members, and directly to MHSA WET interns, in line with established policies and timeframes.

The proposed FY 2025-26 Third Amendment with HCFVC will: (1) increase maximum contract amount to \$505,138, (2) increase internship stipends to \$204,700 and (3) increase FSP funds to \$196,938 to add VCPOP services. The Housing Fund Fiscal Administration Services within the existing agreement will remain the same. This agreement will be funded by SCR Pipeline Funding, WET and MHSA.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Third Amendment to the Agreement with HCFVC for MHSA funded educational stipend, Basic Needs Program funding supports and Administrative services, in the maximum amount of \$505,138 (an increase of \$128,225 from FY 2024-25), effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

## **Recommendation #3**

In order to timely respond to needed changes to achieve contract goals and ensure costs are maintained within available funding and budgets, VCBH also requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to amend the agreements in Recommendation #1 and #2 to (a) decrease the amount of each agreement, (b) approve contractual budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreement, and (c) make corrections, clarifications, and technical changes to each agreement, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

**Recommendation #4**

VCBH requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreements referenced in Recommendation #1, for up to two fiscal year for periods of one year each, 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 up to an amount not to exceed (a) the amount of the agreement specified above and (b) any Board-approved increase made to the agreement amount within FY 2025-26. All extensions would be subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by your Board and review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

**Strategic Plan Priority:**

The item presented in this Board letter ties to Goal #1 of the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing equitable and timely access to quality mental health services.

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 Behavioral Health Director Loretta L. Denering DrPH, MS at (805) 981-2214 or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.



LORETTA L. DENERING, DrPH, MS  
Behavioral Health Director



THERESA CHO, MD, MHA  
Health Care Agency Director

**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 – FY 25-26 Nate's Place – Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – FY 25-26 Pacific Clinics – Agreement
- Exhibit 3 – FY 25-26 United Parents – Agreement
- Exhibit 4 – FY 25-26 Health Care Foundation of Ventura County, Inc. – Third Amendment