

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

June 4, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Ratification and Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director (VCBH) to Sign, Amendments to Four Agreements with Various Providers to Provide Substance Use Prevention Services, Increasing the Combined Maximum Amount of the Agreements from \$1,990,875 to \$2,185,470 (a Combined increase of \$194,495), Effective January 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2025; and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Approve Limited Contract Modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ratification and approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee, to sign amendments to four agreements for the provision of Substance Use and Prevention Services, increasing the combined maximum amount of the agreements from \$1,990,875 to \$2,185,470 (a combined increase of \$194,495), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The amendments are summarized in the below table. (Exhibit 1-4).

Exhibit #	Contractor	FY 2023-24 Current Contract Amount	FY 2023-24 Proposed Contract Amount	Variance (Increase)	Division Number
1	Idea Engineering, Inc.	\$733,150	\$758,150	\$25,000	3220
2	Reality Improv Connection, Inc.	\$527,000	\$579,000	\$52,000	3220
3	Two Trees Community, Inc	\$445,825	\$543,320	\$97,495	3220
4	Ventura County Office of Education	\$285,000	\$305,000	\$20,000	3220
	Total	\$1,990,875	\$2,185,470	\$194,495	

2. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications to decrease the amount of each contract, to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the contract, or to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and other modifications to each contract and/or amendment, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the contract, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

SUS Budget Unit# 3220-3223 Prevention Services

Mandatory: No ☒ Yes ☐ Cite Authority: N/A

Source of Funding: Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG) and SUBG American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Assistance Listing # 93.959, Vehicle Fines (Trust N853-772D and N853-772G), and Statham Fund (Trust N853-772F) and Opioid Settlement Funds.

Funding Match Required: None

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$194,495	\$1,362,219
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$194,495	\$1,362,219
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$194,495	\$1,362,219
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Cost:	\$0	\$0

FY 2023-24 Adjusted Budget for SUS Prevention Services BU #3223				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$4,514,606	\$5,552,911	\$4,981,553	\$571,358
Revenue	\$4,514,606	\$5,419,234	\$4,981,553	(\$437,681)
Net Cost	\$0	\$133,677	\$0	\$133,677

Note: Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2023-24 adjusted budget for SUS Prevention Services BU #3223.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

To ensure timely delivery of services, VCBH authorized the providers listed in Recommendation #1 to provide service delivery related to the proposed increase in

advance of seeking your Board's approval. VCBH is presenting these amendments for your Board's approval at the earliest opportunity.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:

The items presented in this board letter tie to the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as they are designed to meet the goals of promoting community resilience and strengthening our ability to withstand and recover from disaster or adversity.

DISCUSSION:

Background:

On September 26, 2023, your Board approved an expanded multi-agency comprehensive plan to utilize the County's Opioid Settlement Funds, in compliance with the Settlement guidelines. The Amendments with Reality Improv, Two Trees, and VCOE that are before your Board will be used to expand the County's strategy to combat the opioid crisis in Ventura County. Funding for services with Reality Improv and VCOE is already included in the approved plan. While Two Trees is a new addition to the plan, there are sufficient appropriations to support this additional eligible activity.

The amendment with Idea Engineering will use SUBG ARPA funding to expand service provision from this provider as detailed below in Recommendation #1.

Recommendation #1:

Idea Engineering provides: (1) identification of community needs and resources among vulnerable sub-populations, (2) documentation of risk and protective factors, findings of community needs and resource assessment activities, (3) community-supported interventions engaging persons of diverse backgrounds in projects which examine local substance use risk among underserved and/or stigmatized populations, and (4) awareness campaign(s) to reach high-risk groups, sub-populations, neighborhoods, families and/or communities. Idea Engineering also provides media planning, buying and production services across all types of media that relate to the Prevention Services overseen by VCBH. Substance Use Block Grant (SUBG) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) supplemental funding is used for awareness campaigns among school-aged youth.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with Idea Engineering will revise the agreement to augment youth education and informational materials regarding new multi-drug risks, especially the poisoning risks associated with stimulants like methamphetamine and cocaine, now mixed with fentanyl. The agreement is also being

revised to remove duplicative media and messaging activities information that was inadvertently added twice. This agreement is funded with SUBG, SUBG ARPA, Vehicle Fines, and Statham funds.

VCBH requests ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, a First Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Substance Use Prevention services, increasing the maximum amount from \$733,150 to \$758,150 (an increase of \$25,000), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Reality Improv provides: (1) prevention outreach related to marijuana use and vaping harms to reach both parents and youth, using research-based content, (2) engaging education efforts and community presentations about marijuana and the developing brain, (3) underage drinking prevention outreach for parents and youth, (4) specialized in-service and/or staff development training.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with Reality Improv will use Opioid Settlement Funds to: (1) support up-to-date digital content for overdose awareness and response training countywide, including fentanyl test strips, and other harm reduction practices and (2) support the provision of in-studio and remote video production and editing services, in collaboration with VCBH, to deliver video segments supporting key asynchronous content, including harm reduction strategies, in both Spanish and English. This agreement is funded with SUBG, SUBG ARPA, Vehicle Fines, Statham, and Opioid Settlement Funds.

VCBH requests ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement with Reality Improv Connection, Inc. for Substance Use Prevention Services, to decrease the maximum agreement amount from \$527,000 to \$579,000 (an increase of \$52,000), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Two Trees provides: (1) data-driven overdose prevention education and rescue efforts throughout the county, (2) expanded overdose response training and naloxone distribution, including public agencies such as libraries and municipal transit systems, as well as private non-profit organizations, (3) training services in both English and Spanish, with data quality standards regarding how and where naloxone kits are used , and (4) technical assistance to County and other agencies regarding opioid response protocols.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with Two Trees will utilize Opioid Settlement Funds to: (1) expand the countywide overdose prevention response by providing realistic, repeatable, and recordable training sessions across a variety of settings and languages, making training easier to access and (2) support the development of an Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Plan to support high-

impact, low-barrier prevention tools and materials. This agreement is funded with Opioid Settlement Funds.

VCBH requests ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement with Two Trees Community, Inc. for Substance Use Prevention Services, to increase the maximum agreement amount from \$445,825 to \$543,320 (an increase of \$97,495), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. While the activity is a modification to the department's previously approved Opioid Settlement Funds plan, no additional appropriations are being requested.

VCOE provides VCBH with: (1) prevention and educational strategies to increase the awareness of opioids and fentanyl risks countywide, (2) activities to lower prescription opioid misuse, deter the use of fentanyl, increase security and safe drug disposal options, and decrease drug demand through compelling and fact-based community outreach strategies for parents, educators, and community members regarding opioids and overdose risks, and (3) prevention outreach and how to talk with youth/adolescents about substance use and misuse.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with VCOE for substance use services will use Opioid Settlement Funds to expand the County's strategy to combat the opioid crisis by supporting evidenced-based adolescent prevention education curriculum within secondary school districts to prevent drug misuse among vulnerable youth. This agreement is funded with Opioid Settlement Funds.

VCBH requests ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement with VCOE for Substance Use Prevention Services, to increase the maximum agreement amount from \$285,000 to \$305,000 (an increase of \$20,000), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Recommendation #2:

In order to quickly respond to needed changes to achieve contract goals, VCBH also requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications to decrease the amount of each contract, to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the contract, or to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and other modifications to each contract, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the contract, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved 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 Interim 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
Interim Behavioral Health Director



BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – FY 2023-25 Idea Engineering, Inc. – First Amendment
- Exhibit 2 – FY 2023-25 Reality Improv Connection, Inc. – First Amendment
- Exhibit 3 – FY 2023-25 Two Trees Community, Inc. – First Amendment
- Exhibit 4 – FY 2023-25 Ventura County Office of Education – First Amendment