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*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

June 24, 2025

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

**Subject:** Approval of a New Educationally Related Social Emotional Services (ERSES) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Template and Authorization to Enter into Future ERSES Service MOUs with Various Local Education Agencies.

**Recommendations:**

1. Approval of a new Educationally Related Social Emotional Services (ERSES) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to enter into and sign future MOUs for ERSES services with various Local Education Agencies (LEAs) throughout the County of Ventura, provided the future MOUs are substantially similar to the ERSES services MOU template attached hereto, subject to County Counsel review and approval as to form. (Exhibit 1)
2. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to amend the agreements authorized in Recommendation #1, to (a) modify the rate per hour by Practitioner type and (b) 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 uncovered costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval as to form.
3. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreement referenced in Recommendation #1, 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). 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:**

The proposed recommendations do not have a fiscal impact.

**Discussion:**

**Background:**

On June 30, 2011, Assembly Bill No. 114 (2010-2011 Reg. Sess.) was signed into law. Under AB 114, several sections of Chapter 26.5 of the California Government Code were

amended or rendered inoperative. This ended the state mandate on county mental health agencies to provide mental health services to students with disabilities. These services were provided to special education students via the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and may have included such things as individual or small group counseling, collateral services, medication monitoring, case management, and residential care.

Since 2011, the Ventura County Office of Education Special Education Local Plan Area (VCOE SELPA) and LEAs have been solely responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities receive the special education and related services needed to address their social, emotional, and behavioral needs in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and pursuant to Education Code sections 56195 *et seq.* and 56205. VCOE SELPA previously contracted with VCBH for the provision of ERSSES services, for students pursuant to IEPs on behalf of LEAs throughout Ventura County; however, due to a change in law, LEAs will receive funding directly, rather than through VCOE SELPA. Therefore, VCBH will contract directly with LEAs for the provision of ERSSES services moving forward. ERSSES services may include, but are not limited to, assessments, individual therapy, group therapy, collateral services, case management, and other mental health services.

The census of students requiring high level ERSSES has increased throughout Ventura County since the original MOU with VCOE SELPA first commenced in FY 2017-18. The daily census started at 827 students in FY 2017-18 and is currently 1,248 in FY 2024-25.

LEAs have the opportunity to provide ERSSES services in-house; however, if the LEA choose to have VCBH provide the ERSSES services, an MOU is still required. It is important to note, each LEA will still be required to maintain an MOU with VCBH to ensure service delivery for youth that may require additional services the LEA cannot support in house.

### **Recommendation #1**

Currently, VCBH works collaboratively with various LEAs, to provide ERSSES services. These services, as outlined in the template MOU, are paid for by each LEA, to the County. The proposed MOU template will be used to contract with each LEA to facilitate the provision of ERSSES and invoice the LEAs for costs not covered by Short Doyle/Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP). The MOU delineates the roles and responsibilities of VCBH and the LEAs and clarify processes such as invoicing and payment. All LEAs served under this MOU will have access to bilingual and bicultural staff to meet the needs of the client population served.

VCBH recommends approval of the attached ERSSES services MOU template, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to enter into and sign future agreements for ERSSES services with various LEAs throughout the County of Ventura, provided the future agreements are substantially similar to the ERSSES services MOU template, subject to County Counsel review and approval as to form.

## **Recommendation #2**

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 executed under the authority in Recommendation # 1 to (a) modify the rate per hour by Practitioner type and (b) 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 uncovered costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

## **Recommendation #3**

VCBH requests authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to extend the term of the agreement referenced in Recommendation #1, up to two times for a period of one year, 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.

### **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.

  
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Attachment:  
Exhibit 1 – FY 25-26 ERSSES Service – Template