

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

May 21, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization of the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director to Sign, Two Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with Una Vida Esta Vida for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Short-term Housing Program and Interim Supportive Housing Rental Assistance Program Services, in the Total Combined Amount of \$1,814,459, Effective May 21, 2024 through June 30, 2027; Approval and Ratification of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Sign, a First Amendment to the Agreement with Spirit of Santa Paula for BHBH Short-term Housing Program Services, increasing the MOA Amount from \$314,147 to \$352,997 (an increase of \$38,850), Effective January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Amend the MOAs with Limited Modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, two memoranda of agreement (MOA) Una Vida Esta Vida for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Short-term Housing Program and Interim Supportive Housing Rental Assistance Program services (Exhibits 1 and 2) with Una Vida Esta Vida., for the amounts and terms specified in the following table:

Exhibit #	Contractor	Contract Term	FY 2023-24 through FY 2026-27 Contract Amount	Division Number
1	Una Vida Esta Vida	5-21-24 to 6-30-27	\$1,450,490	3273
2	Una Vida Esta Vida	5-21-24 to 6-30-27	\$363,969	3273
Total			\$1,814,459	

2. Approval and ratification of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the first amendment to the MOA with Spirit of Santa Paula for BHBH Short-term Housing Program services, increasing the MOA amount from \$314,147 to \$352,997 (an increase of \$38,850), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 (Exhibit 3).

3. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to (a) approve modifications to decrease the amount of each MOA, (b) approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the MOAs and (c) approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and modifications 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.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION

To mitigate impacts on time-sensitive operational needs, VCBH authorized the budget modification for Spirit of Santa Paula for the budget increase of \$4,515 in FY 2023-24. VCBH is presenting the agreement to your Board for approval at the earliest opportunity.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

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

Mandatory: No Yes Cite Authority:

Source of Funding: Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$4,515	\$656,716
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$4,515	\$656,716
Indirect – Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$4,515	\$656,716
Net County Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

FY 2023-24 Adjusted Budget for MHSA CSS Adult Services BU #3260-3273				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$53,846,119	\$70,950,555	\$61,680,279	\$9,270,276
Revenue	\$52,705,680	\$68,914,7733	\$76,753,871	\$7,839,098
Net Cost	\$1,140,439	\$2,035,782	(\$15,073,592)	\$17,109,374

Note: Appropriations and revenue are included in the FY 2023-24 Adjusted Budget and FY24-25 preliminary budget for MHSA Division #3260-3273.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:

The item presented in this Board letter aligns to the addressing homelessness and lifting the most vulnerable population priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing short and long-term housing options with wraparound services to foster well-being and self-sufficiency for individuals experiencing homelessness.

DISCUSSION:

Background

In April 2023, VCBH submitted a proposal for a BHBH non-competitive funding allocation from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in the amount of \$13,325,088 to provide a variety of housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness. In June 2023, VCBH was awarded conditional approval of the BHBH Short-term Housing Program funds by DHCS, and your Board approved the acceptance of the grant funding on September 12, 2023. After extensive stakeholder input, VCBH developed a BHBH program plan to provide 30 new shelter beds, emergency motel accommodations, incentive funding for new Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) serving the BHBH target population and 85 new interim supportive housing units. Additionally, VCBH was able to hire four dedicated housing case managers to support this extensive new housing program. Working closely with Homekey sites, VCBH dedicated BHBH resources to projects that were approved by your board on December 19, 2023. As some of those projects are no longer being developed and/or are unexpectedly delayed, DHCS has informed VCBH that BHBH funding must be re-allocated to other allowable expenses, or it will revert to the State. As a result, VCBH is pivoting BHBH resources to provide other bridge housing to timely reallocate resources per DHCS guidance. Specifically, VCBH will increase the number of scattered site bridge housing rental assistance options and is adding an additional 16 new short-term beds at recovery residences. VCBH is also increasing funding for emergency shelter at motels. The number of units and beds being offered under the revised proposal is four fewer than the original proposal.

Recommendation #1:

The proposed MOAs between VCBH and Una Vida Esta Vida specified in Recommendation #1 fall into the following two categories: (1) shelter beds, or “short-term housing” and (2) rental assistance, or “mid-term housing.” The MOAs specify the BHBH short-term and mid-term housing program guidelines, roles, and responsibilities of each party to the MOA, and funding terms for the provision of BHBH housing solutions for the target population, which is inclusive of participants in the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. These MOAs include 16 shelter beds and 5 rental assistance units. The terms of the MOAs will be from May 21, 2024 through June 30, 2027. There will not be any building renovation expenditures in FY 2023-2024 for either program.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, two MOAs with Una Vida Esta Vida for BHBH Short-term Housing Program and Interim Rental Assistance Program services, for the combined amounts of \$1,814,459, and for the terms specified above in Recommendation #1.

Recommendation #2:

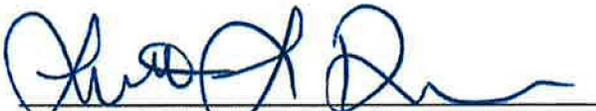
Spirit of Santa Paula will be building and operating six new shelter beds at the Merewether Project restricted for VCBH client-tenants who qualify as members of the BHBH target population. The proposed First Amendment to the MOA with Spirit of Santa Paula will: (1) revise the payment provisions and budget, and (2) increase the maximum contract amount for FY 2024-2027 to \$352,997.

VCBH recommends the approval and ratification of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the first amendment to the MOA with Spirit of Santa Paula for BHBH Short-term Housing Program services, increasing the MOA amount from \$314,147 to \$352,997 (an increase of \$38,850), effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Recommendation #3:

VCBH also recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications to decrease the amount, to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount, and/or to approve corrections, clarification and technical changes and other modifications to the MOAs (Exhibits 1-3) when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the MOAs and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

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


DR. LORETTA L. DENERING, DRPH, MS
Interim Behavioral Health Director


BARRY ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

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Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – FY 2023-27 Una Vida Esta Vida BHBH Rental Assistance MOA**
- Exhibit 2 – FY 2023-27 Una Vida Esta Vida BHBH Shelter Beds MOA**
- Exhibit 3 – FY 2023-27 Spirit of Santa Paula BHBH Shelter Beds MOA – First Amendment**