

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

February 6, 2024

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

**SUBJECT: Approval and Ratification of the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director to Sign, Six (6) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for Mentored Internship Program and Intern Recruitment Related Services, with Various Universities and Community Colleges, in the Total Combined Amount of \$38,875, Effective October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Amend the MOUs to Make Limited Modifications and Extend the Term of the MOUs for up to Two Additional One-Year Periods.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approval and ratification of the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, six (6) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for mentored internship program (MIP) and intern recruitment related services (Exhibits 1-6) with the universities and colleges for the amounts and for the terms specified in the immediately following table:

Exhibit #	Contractor	Contract Term	FY 2023-2024 Contract Amount	Division Number
1	Antioch University Santa Barbara	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	\$5,000	3260-3265
2	California State University San Bernadino (CSUSB)	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	\$5,000	3260-3265
3	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	\$8,250	3260-3265
4	California State University Channel Island (CSUCI)	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	\$12,375	3260-3265
5	California Lutheran University (CLU)	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	\$8,250	3260-3265
6	Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD)/Oxnard	10-1-23 to 12-31-24	no cost	3260-3265
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$38,875</b>	

2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign amendments to the MOUs referenced in Recommendation No. 1 in order to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the MOUs or to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and modifications, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the MOUs, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved by County Counsel.
3. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments to extend the terms of the MOUs for up to two additional one-year periods, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

**REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

On September 22, 2023, VCBH received the MIP Grant Notice of Awards, which did not leave sufficient time for VCBH to obtain approval from your Board to accept the additional MIP Grant funding and execute the proposed MOUs before the planned starting date of the student internships on October 1, 2023. The schools, all but one of who received funding and successfully participated in the Round 1 MIP program, agreed to move forward without a guarantee of receiving incentive payments. VCBH requested and received your Board's approval to accept the additional MIP grant funding on December 19, 2023, and is now presenting these MOUs for your Board's ratification of the amounts provided in each for providing the student experiences already underway.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

**MHSA Budget Unit# 3260-3265 (Workforce Education and Training/WET Services)**

Mandatory: No  Yes  Cite Authority: N/A  
 Source of Funding: Mentored Internship Program (MIP) grant  
 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:	\$19,438	\$19,437
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$19,438	\$19,437
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$19,438	\$19,437
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Cost:	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2023-2024 Budget Projection for MHSA BU #3260-3265 (WET Services)</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$328,101	\$1,039,663	\$1,039,663	\$0
Revenue	\$307,401	\$976,135	\$976,135	\$0
Net Cost	\$20,700	\$63,528	\$63,528	\$0

Note: Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2023-2024 adjusted budget for MHSA Unit #3260-3265.

**STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:**

The item presented in this board letter aligns to the diverse and innovative workforce dedicated to service excellence strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of leveraging innovative and continuous improvement to provide efficient and effective services.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Recommendation #1:**

On September 22, 2023, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) notified VCBH that it was awarded two additional MIP Round Two grant awards, each in the amount of \$334,367, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. The MIP Round Two grants will provide up to 23 internship opportunities for doctoral level, graduate level, and undergraduate level students. Your Board approved VCBH's acceptance of the grant awards from DHCS and signing of the MIP Round Two grant agreements at the December 19, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting.

VCBH will use the MIP grant funding to implement, within the existing VCBH Internship Program, an in-house mentored internship program designed to improve the quality of training and number of persons interested in joining the behavioral health workforce. Through the proposed MOUs, VCBH and its partner universities and colleges will expand an internship program that includes a standardized clinical experience and a curriculum of structured supervision, training, and career preparation that is uniform for all participating student interns. The proposed MOUs will strengthen the collaborative relationships between VCBH, and the educational institutions listed in Recommendation

#1 by facilitating intern recruitment, mentored internship program sustainability, and VCBH recruitment. Each educational institution will receive stipend funds, in varying amounts, to cover the MIP and intern recruitment efforts. The terms of the MOUs will be from October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

VCBH recommends approval and ratification of the VCBH Director or designee to sign, six (6) MOUs for mentored internship program and intern recruitment related services with the various educational institutions, for the amounts, and for the terms specified above in Recommendation #1.

**Recommendation #2:**

In order to be able to quickly respond to possible needed changes to achieve the goals of the internship program and recruitment efforts and to ensure costs are maintained within available funding and budgets, VCBH also requests approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the MOUs, or to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and other modifications to each MOU, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of each MOU and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

**Recommendation #3:**

VCBH also recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments to the MOUs to extend the term of the MOUs for up to two additional one-year periods, subject to review and approval 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 Loretta L. Denering at (805) 981-2214 or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.



LORETTA L. DENERING, DRPH, MS  
Acting Behavioral Health Director



BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

Board of Supervisors  
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**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 –MIP MOU with Antioch University Santa Barbara
- Exhibit 2 –MIP MOU with CSUSB
- Exhibit 3 –MIP MOU with CSUN
- Exhibit 4 –MIP MOU with CSUCI
- Exhibit 5 –MIP MOU with CLU
- Exhibit 6 –MIP MOU with VCCCD/Oxnard