

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

October 29, 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 (VCBH) Director to Sign, Three Amendments to the Agreements with Clinicas Del Camino Real Inc., CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, and Ventura County Office of Education, to Provide Various Services Increasing the Combined Maximum Amount of the Agreements from \$4,522,559 to \$4,688,966 (a Combined Increase of \$166,437); Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Sign, a New Memorandum of Understanding with California State University of Channel Islands, and Agreements with Nicole Taylor, dba Creativity Through Music Cultural Consulting LLC, and Semillas Counseling & Wellness Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Inc., for Various Services in the Combined Maximum Amount of \$1,691,846, Effective November 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2026; and Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Make Limited Modifications to the Agreements. Recommendation No. 4 Requires 4/5ths Vote.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Ratification and approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, three Amendments to the Agreements with Clinicas Del Camino Real Inc., (Clinicas), CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly (Caregivers) and Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for various services under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), increasing the combined maximum amount of the agreements from \$4,522,559 to \$4,688,966 (a combined increase of \$166,437). The terms and increases of the Amendments are summarized in more detail in the table below. (Exhibit 1-3)

Exhibit #	Contractor	Term Date	Current Contract Amount	Proposed Amended Contract Amount	Variance (Increase)	Division Number
1	Clinicas Del Camino Real Inc.	7/1/2024-6/30/2025	\$214,623	\$232,623	\$18,000	3260
2	CAREGIVERS: Volunteers	7/1/2024-6/30/2027	\$435,952	\$480,406	\$44,454	3260

Board of Supervisors

MHSA FY 24-25 First Amendments for Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE, FY 24-25 MOU with CSUCI and FY 24-25 Agreements with Creativity Through Music and Semillas

October 29, 2024

Page 2 of 7

	Assisting the Elderly					
3	Ventura County Office of Education	7/1/2024-6/30/2026	\$3,871,984	\$3,975,967	\$103,983	3260
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,522,559</b>	<b>\$4,688,996</b>	<b>\$166,437</b>	

- Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee, to sign (a) a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California State University of Channel Islands (CSUCI), for Wellness services, (b) a new agreement with Creativity Through Music Cultural Consulting LLC (CTMCC), for Arts & Wellness Program (AWP) for Transitional Age Youth (TAY), Arts Prescription program services, and (c) a new agreement with Semillas Counseling & Wellness, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Inc. (Semillas) for trauma informed horticulture-based and somatic therapeutic workshops and healing knowledge conference services, for a combined maximum amount of \$1,691,846, effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. These agreements are summarized in the table below (Exhibit 4-6)

Exhibit #	Contractor	FY 2024-26 Proposed New Contract Amount	Division Number
4	California State University of Channel Islands	\$200,000	3260
5	Nicole Taylor, dba Creativity Through Music Cultural Consulting LLC	\$1,000,000	3260
6	Semillas Counseling & Wellness, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Inc.	\$491,846	3260
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,691,846</b>	

- Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to amend these new agreements to (a) decrease the amount of each agreement, (b) make 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.
- Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to revise the following appropriations and revenue. (This recommendation requires 4/5ths vote.):

FY24-25 Budget Division 3260 MHSA Services

INCREASE Services and Supplies	\$891,382
INCREASE Intergovernmental Revenue	\$891,382

Board of Supervisors

MHSA FY 24-25 First Amendments for Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE, FY 24-25 MOU with CSUCI and FY 24-25 Agreements with Creativity Through Music and Semillas

October 29, 2024

Page 3 of 7

**REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

VCBH made funding from a prior fiscal year available to Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE to increase their budgets to provide additional services. VCBH authorized the providers to use these funds in advance of your Board's approval to ensure services were appropriately delivered to the community. VCBH is now presenting these agreements to your board at the earliest opportunity for review and approval.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

**MHSA Division #3260**

Mandatory: No ☒ Yes ☐ Cite Authority:

Source of Funding: Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	<u>FY 2025-2026</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$3,188,526	\$3,045,307
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$3,188,526	\$3,045,307
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$3,188,526	\$3,045,307
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2024-25 Adjusted Budget for MHSA Division #3260</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$121,144,060	\$130,199,436	\$130,199,436	\$0
Revenue	\$102,227,442	\$104,405,697	\$104,405,697	\$0
Net Cost	\$18,916,618	\$25,793,741	\$25,793,741	\$0

**STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:**

The item presented in this Board letter ties to 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.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Recommendation #1:**

In fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, VCBH issued new service agreements to contractors who received funding and provided services under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). These new agreements capture several language and formatting changes that were needed to align with service expectations in the new FY. Among those contracts affected



Board of Supervisors

MHSA FY 24-25 First Amendments for Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE, FY 24-25 MOU with CSUCI and FY 24-25 Agreements with Creativity Through Music and Semillas

October 29, 2024

Page 4 of 7

were a few contractors who had multiyear agreements that outlined services and budgets that ran from FY 22-23 through FY 26-27. Traditionally contractors with multiyear agreements have been permitted to roll over unused funds from one FY to the next FY to ensure approved MHSA funds are spent by the end of the agreement. However, since the original agreements ended earlier than expected, and the new FY 24-25 agreement was issued, VCBH is seeking approval from your Board to increase each of the agreements in Recommendations 1 to include funds not expended by the contractor during FY 23-24.

**Clinicas** provides Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) treatment option for early intervention services in Ventura County. This is a new service that was added to the continuum of care. The target population for these primary care services is individuals ages twelve (12) and over who are patients of Clinicas' primary health care clinics.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with Clinicas is needed in order to move unused funds from FY 23-24 over to FY 24-25 in the amount of \$18,000. No change to the scope of work is needed, as the services these funds were earmarked for will continue to be provided and only the timeline and budget is being adjusted. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign the First Amendment to the Agreement with Clinicas for EMDR Services, increasing the maximum contract amount from \$214,623 to \$232,623 (an increase of \$18,000), effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

**Caregivers** provides Managing Assets for Security and Health (M.A.S.H.) senior support for housing stability services. This MHSA Innovation Project combats housing concerns for at risk seniors in Ventura County. The multi-phase project was created to provide several services for seniors who have either already lost stable housing or will be losing their current housing, including for example, assistance with finding new housing, financial education to maintain current residence, and counseling services.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with Caregivers is needed to move unused funds from FY 23-24 to FY 24-25 in the amount of \$44,454. No change to the scope of work is needed as the services these funds were earmarked for will continue to be provided and only the timeline and budget is being adjusted. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign the First Amendment to the Agreement with CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, for M.A.S.H. senior support for housing stability services, increasing the maximum contract amount from \$435,952 to \$480,406 (an increase of \$44,454), effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.



**VCOE** provides Wellness Center services for VCBH. Through the proposed amendment, VCOE will continue to create new Wellness Centers in partnership with various elementary and junior high schools throughout Ventura County.

The proposed first amendment to the agreement with VCOE is needed to move unused funds from FY 23-24 to FY 24-25 in the amount of \$103,983. No change to the scope of work is needed as the services these funds were earmarked for will continue to be provided and only the timeline and budget is being adjusted. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends ratification and approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement with VCOE for Wellness Center services, increasing the maximum contract amount of \$3,871,984 to \$3,975,967 (an increase of \$103,983), effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

#### **Recommendation #2:**

**CSUCI** provides wellness services to students who access their campus Mental Health Peer Program (MHPP). The MHPP is the bridge between students and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) clinicians. The MHPP aims to help students feel supported. Under the proposed MOU, CSUCI will expand MHPP services as a part of the Counseling and Psychological Services Center on the CSUCI campus. The program will provide free outreach, private drop-in services, and wrap-around support to address a student's comprehensive core needs in a safe, accessible, and inclusive atmosphere. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, a new MOU with CSUCI for Wellness services, in the amount of \$200,000 effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

**CTMCC** in partnership with VCBH Community Support Services (CSS), will develop the Arts & Wellness Program (AWP) for Transitional Age Youth, an Arts Prescription program connecting members to receptive and/or active arts experiences to address their specific needs. This program is also seeking to increase access to arts and culture education and activities for transitional age youth county-wide. Initially, member referrals will be accepted from VCBH Clinicians, the VCBH Ventura County Power Over Psychosis (VCPOP) program, and the VCBH Transitions program. AWP is envisioned as a pilot for a long term, countywide Arts Prescription program. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, a new Agreement with CTMCC for Arts & Wellness Program (AWP) for Transitional Age Youth (TAY), an Arts Prescription program connecting members to receptive and/or active arts experiences services, in the amount of \$1,000,000 effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

Board of Supervisors

MHSA FY 24-25 First Amendments for Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE, FY 24-25 MOU with CSUCI and FY 24-25 Agreements with Creativity Through Music and Semillas

October 29, 2024

Page 6 of 7

**Semillas** provides trauma informed horticulture-based and somatic therapeutic workshops and a healing knowledge conference in Ventura County. Services are facilitated by licensed psychotherapists in collaboration with culturally rooted horticulture and somatic practitioners who reflect the community they serve. The program promotes collaborations with community partners by creating strategic linkages with health clinics, mental health providers, social service entities, schools, and provides referrals. Additionally, by partnering with community spaces/entities such as community gardens, local farms and community-based organizations that offer access to nature and/or community spaces, the program increases participant familiarity and trust of accessible community spaces. This agreement is funded by MHSA.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, a new Agreement with Semillas for trauma informed horticulture-based and somatic therapeutic workshops and healing knowledge conference services, in the amount of \$491,846 effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

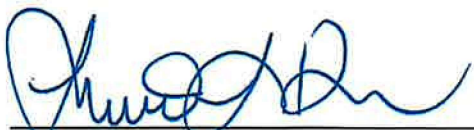
**Recommendation #3:**

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 #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:**

To ensure that sufficient appropriations are available, VCBH is also recommending approval of and authorization for Auditor-Controller to process the budgetary transactions necessary to increase the appropriations and revenue, as discussed above in Recommendations #4.

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

Board of Supervisors

MHSA FY 24-25 First Amendments for Clinicas, Caregivers, and VCOE, FY 24-25 MOU  
with CSUCI and FY 24-25 Agreements with Creativity Through Music and Semillas

October 29, 2024

Page 7 of 7



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THERESA CHO, MD, MHA  
Health Care Agency Director

**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 – FY 24-25 Clinicas Del Camino Real, Inc., – First Amendment
- Exhibit 2 – FY 24-27 CAREGIVERS Vol. Assisting the Elderly – First Amendment
- Exhibit 3 – FY 24-26 Ventura County Office of Education – First Amendment
- Exhibit 4 – FY 24-26 California State University CI – MOU
- Exhibit 5 – FY 24-26 Creativity Through Music – Agreement
- Exhibit 6 – FY 24-26 Semillas Counseling & Wellness – Agreement