

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

October 29, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director to Sign, the Agreement with Health Management Associates, Inc., for Needs Assessment Analysis and Implementation Services, in the Contract Maximum Amount of \$414,748 Effective November 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2025; and Approval of, and Authorization for the HCA Director to Make Limited Modifications and Extend the Term of the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or designee to sign, an agreement with Health Management Associates Inc. (HMA), for Needs Assessment Analysis and Implementation Services, with a contract maximum amount of \$414,748, effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. (Exhibit 1)
2. Approval of, and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to amend the agreement to (a) decrease the amount of the 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.
3. Approval of, and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to extend, by amendment, the term of the agreement referenced in Recommendation No. 1, up to two (2) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each, 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), and for up to an amount not to exceed (a) the amount of the agreement specified above and (b) any Board-approved increase made to the agreement amount within FY 2024-25. 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/MANDATES IMPACT:

MHSA Division #3260

Mandatory: No [X] 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:	\$414,748	\$414,748
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$414,748	\$414,748
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$414,748	\$414,748
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2024-25 Adjusted Budget for MHS Budget Unit #3260				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
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

Note: Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2024-25 adopted budget for MHS Budget Unit #3260.

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.

BACKGROUND:

On February 8, 2022, the HCA received Board approval to engage a qualified entity to perform a comprehensive needs assessment of the behavioral health continuum for those experiencing severe mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders, in response to a request from the Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB). The BHAB specifically requested a comprehensive assessment that looked beyond the Behavioral Health Department to all systems within Ventura County that interact with those suffering from mental and substance use disorders or conditions.

On April 29, 2022, HCA issued a request for proposal. After careful review of the submitted proposals, Evalcorp was chosen and a contract was entered into from November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. As part of this contract, Evalcorp was responsible for gathering information, including recommendations to enhance the system, from community members and stakeholders; outlining the current capacity and availability of behavioral health services; compiling and analyzing prevalence and utilization trends relative to mental health and substance use services; identifying gaps, barriers to access and recommendations to ensure needs for services are met; and projecting utilization trends and growth by the level of care and population.

As required by contract, Evalcorp facilitated quarterly presentations to the BHAB to report on status of Evalcorp's current activities. Evalcorp provided a presentation during a BHAB general meeting. HCA received feedback from the advisory board and general members addressing their desire for deeper analysis and recommended that HCA more deeply explore other factors in the continuum of care.

Additionally, The Three-Year Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Planning Process (CPP) was completed as required in regulation. Findings from the CPP indicated a need to improve awareness of available behavioral health services, a central location with information about changes to services, and additional community education for when to access services. The proposed contract has been identified to assist in resolving these needs by building trust with the community through additional transparency. Increased data reporting and public dashboards are among the deliverables to be paid for out of MHSA funding in response to these identified needs.

HMA has been selected based on their proven expertise and alignment with project goals. HCA seeks your Board's approval to contract with HMA to build upon the work conducted by Evalcorp and complete an in-depth analysis of access to and utilization of behavioral health services.

DISCUSSION:

Recommendation #1:

HMA will provide a quantitative analysis of Ventura County's behavioral health system. HMA will identify potential underutilized capacity in the community and provide recommendations for how the County can close identified gaps. In addition, HMA will create a utilization-based forecasting tool that will give the County real time data on current and recent utilization trends to ensure there is ongoing awareness of service capacity as demands shift due to policy and legislation changes. The total contract amount for these services will be \$414,748. This agreement is funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). HMA will work under the direction of the HCA Administration.

HCA recommends approval of, and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to sign, the agreement with HMA for Needs Assessment Analysis and Implementation Services, in the contract maximum amount of \$414,748, effective November 1, 2024.

Recommendation #2:

In order to timely respond to needed changes to achieve contract goals and ensure costs are maintained within available funding and budgets, HCA also requests approval of and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to amend the agreement to (a) decrease the amount of the agreement, (b) approve contractual budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreement, and (c) make corrections, clarifications, and technical changes to the 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 #3:

HCA requests approval of, and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to extend, by amendment, the term of the agreement referenced in Recommendation No. 1 (Exhibit 1), up to two (2) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each, 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), and for up to an amount not to exceed (a) the amount of the agreement specified above and (b) any Board-approved increase made to each agreement amount within FY 2024-25. 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.

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 John Polich, HCA Deputy Director Government and Regulatory Affairs, at (805) 677-5140.



THERESA CHO, MD, MHA
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 - FY24-25 HMA Needs Assessment Agreement