

July 23, 2019

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

**SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director or Designee to Sign, the Agreement for Conocimiento: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale Through Core Competencies Services with Catalyst Ventura Church, in the Amount of \$432,905, Effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023; Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director or Designee to Sign, the Agreement for Conocimiento: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale Through Core Competencies Services with One Step a La Vez, in the Amount of \$389,248, Effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023; Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director or Designee to Sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement for Mixed Media Campaign on Suicide Prevention Services with Idea Engineering, Inc., in the Amount of \$156,843, Effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021; and Ratification of Authorization of Services.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve, and authorize the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, the Agreement for Conocimiento: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale (ACES) through Core Competencies services with Catalyst Ventura Church (Exhibit 1), in the amount of \$432,905, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.
2. Approve, and authorize the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Agreement for Conocimiento: Addressing ACES through Core Competencies services with One Step a La Vez (Exhibit 2) in the amount of \$389,248, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.
3. Approve, and authorize the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement for a mixed media campaign on suicide prevention services with Idea Engineering, Inc. (Exhibit 3) in the amount of \$156,843, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

4. Ratification of VCBH's authorization for Catalyst Ventura Church and One Step a La Vez to provide services under the proposed agreements and for Idea Engineering, Inc. to provide services under the proposed amendment prior to your Board's approval.

#### REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requires counties to create and develop programs that fall under the Innovations component of MHSA. Innovations component programs take a considerable amount of time to develop, assess, and identify community partners willing to implement such programs. Because of the lead time involved in developing these projects and the fact that approval from the State Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Committee (MHSOAC) of these projects came in May 23, 2019, VCBH was unable to present the Catalyst Ventura Church and One Step a La Vez agreements and the Idea Engineering, Inc. amendment to your Board prior to the July 1, 2019 service start date.

CONTRACTOR	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	Total
Catalyst Ventura Church		\$ 113,070	\$ 103,582	\$ 106,582	\$109,671	\$ 432,905
One Step a La Vez		\$ 96,520	\$ 94,743	\$97,548	\$100,437	\$ 389,248
Idea Engineering*	\$106,443	\$ 43,100	\$ 7,300			\$156,843
Total	\$106,443	\$252,690	\$205,625	\$204,130	\$210,108	\$978,996

\*Idea Engineering Increase FY19/20 from \$37,300 to \$43,100.

#### FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

##### MHSA Budget Unit # 3260-3269 (Innovations)

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>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$252,690	\$205,625
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$252,690	\$205,625
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$252,690	\$205,625
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2019-20 Current Year Adjusted Budget for MHSA Innovations BU #3269</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$3,046,465	\$3,046,465	\$3,046,465	\$0
Revenue	\$2,212,346	\$2,212,346	\$2,212,346	\$0
Net Cost	\$834,119	\$834,119	\$834,119	\$0

Note: Revenue and appropriations for this item have been included in the FY19-20 adopted budget for Innovations Budget Unit 3260-3269.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

Proposition 63, the MHSA, was passed by California voters in November 2004. The MHSA imposes a 1 percent income tax on personal income over \$1,000,000 to provide funding to counties for the development of comprehensive community-based mental health services and supports that will reduce the adverse impact from untreated serious mental illness in adults and severe emotional disturbance in children and youth. Part of the MHSA includes an "Innovations" category of funding. Innovations projects are novel, creative and/or ingenious mental health practices/approaches that contribute to learning, and that are developed within communities through a process that is inclusive and representative, especially of unserved, underserved and inappropriately served individuals.

### **MHSA Innovations Project: Addressing ACEs Through Core Competencies**

Under the MHSA, counties are expected to develop innovative projects and use the information learned from such projects to improve the behavioral health care system. VCBH has developed a four-year MHSA Innovations Project titled Conocimiento: Addressing ACEs through Core Competencies.

Years of research show a predictive correlation between experiences in childhood, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), and health and functioning risks in adulthood. An ACE is defined as childhood physical, verbal, or sexual abuse, witnessing parental domestic violence, parental divorce, and living with someone who was experiencing mental illness, abused drugs or alcohol or who had been incarcerated. Prolonged experience of poverty has also been considered an ACE. Protective experiences and well-developed coping skills are effective equalizers to a significant ACE and the ongoing stress of living in poverty. One way to build these coping skills is through regular family

dinners, which incorporate many of the resiliency strategies naturally; however, given the irregular schedules of the working poor, regular family dinners are not always feasible.

Core competencies for addressing adverse childhood experiences can be developed at any age. The proposed MHSA Innovations Conocimiento Project is designed to promote the development of the following four competencies, as developed through research by The Center for the Developing Child at Harvard: (1) facilitating supportive adult relationships, (2) building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control, (3) providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities, and (4) mobilizing sources of faith, hope and cultural traditions. Focus on each of these areas will take place over a four-year period to build resilient youth between the ages of 13 and 19.

#### **Recommendation 1:**

**Catalyst Ventura Church will provide Conocimiento: Addressing ACES through Core Competencies services** through its Ignite program. The Ignite program is an afterschool program that serves teens ages 13-19 in Santa Paula. Through this program, at risk Santa Paula youth will be recruited and provided prevention services that are designed to utilize community collaboration to reduce adverse outcomes in adolescents living in poverty or with ACES by increasing core competencies and building resilience. This program will also ensure that at risk youth caregivers receive support and assist in building community.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization of the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the agreement with Catalyst Ventura Church for the Conocimiento: Addressing ACES through Core Competencies services, in the amount of \$432,905, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. This program is funded by the MHSA.

#### **Recommendation 2:**

**One Step a La Vez will provide Conocimiento: Addressing ACES through Core Competencies services** through its afterschool program. The One Step a La Vez afterschool program serves teens ages 13-19 in Fillmore. Through this program, similar to the services provided by Catalyst Ventura Church, at-risk Fillmore youth will be recruited and provided prevention services that are designed to reduce adverse outcomes in adolescents living in poverty or with ACES by increasing core competencies and building resilience. This program will also ensure that at-risk youth caregivers receive support and assist in building community.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization of the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the agreement with One Step a la Vez for the Conocimiento: Addressing ACES through Core Competencies Services, in the amount of \$389,248, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. This program is funded by the MHSA.

#### **Recommendation 3:**



**Idea Engineering, Inc.** is developing a media campaign on suicide prevention for the Bartenders as Gatekeepers program. Idea Engineering, Inc. is midway through this development, created with input from the project's target audience who have lived-experience. The proposed amendment will increase the agreement by \$5,800 from \$151,043 to \$156,843 and will modify the existing agreement to fund: (1) additional VCBH website content development, (2) the creation of additional messaging videos, and (3) the creation of educational materials for the development of a tool kit.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization of the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the first amendment to the agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc., for the Bartenders as Gatekeepers program, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. This program is funded by the MHSA.

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 Sevet Johnson, Behavioral Health Director at (805) 981-1881.



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director



KARLA VALLE  
HCA Chief Financial Officer



WILLIAM T. FOLEY  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

- Exhibit 1 – Catalyst Ventura Church Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – One Step a La Vez Agreement
- Exhibit 3 – Idea Engineering, Inc. First Amendment to Agreement