

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

September 14, 2021

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

**SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or Designee to Sign, the Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority for Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention Services, in the Amount of \$81,186, Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; Authorization for the VCBH Director or Designee to Sign Future Amendments and Extensions to the Agreement, Subject to County Counsel Review and Approval; Approval of, and Authorization for VCBH Director or Designee to Sign, the Fourteenth Amendment for Children's Stabilization Unit Services with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca), and Adjusting the Agreement's Budget Line Items, Effective July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, the Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services, in the amount of \$81,186, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign future amendments and extensions to the CalMHSA participation, when the amendments and extensions 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 VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Agreement with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) (Exhibit 2), for Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) services, adjusting budget line items, effective July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

**MHSA Budget Unit # 3260**

Mandatory: No [x] Yes [ ] Cite Authority:

Source of Funding: Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) Federal Financial Participation (FFP) and Proposition 63 MHSA Funds

Funding Match Required: None

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>FY2021-22</u>	<u>FY2022-23</u>
Summary Forecast of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$81,186	\$81,186
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$81,186	\$81,186
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$81,186	\$81,186
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget for MHSA Budget Division #3260</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$84,270,195	\$84,270,195	\$84,270,195	\$0
Revenue	\$76,372,205	\$76,372,205	\$76,372,205	\$0
Net Cost	\$7,897,990	\$7,897,990	\$7,897,990	\$0

Note: Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget for MHSA Division #3260 .

**DISCUSSION:**

**Recommendation #1:**

CalMHSA is a Joint Powers Authority, an independent government agency created by California counties and cities, focused on the efficient delivery of California mental health projects for its members. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) PEI component was designed to improve the awareness of, and access to, mental health services, reduce the negative impacts that mental illness can have on a person's wellbeing, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and help-seeking, and suicide prevention. Since 2009, CalMHSA has partnered with its members to enhance the statewide capacity and capabilities of MHSA PEI component funds and effect proactive change on a statewide level.

Through the proposed Participation Agreement for Statewide PEI, CalMHSA will collaborate with participating members to promote mental health and wellness, suicide prevention, and health equity to reduce the likelihood of mental illness, substance use, and suicide among Californians, particularly among diverse and underserved communities. Specifically, the program will: (1) implement social media and public education activities to expand and develop emotional wellbeing for California's communities, (2) expand stakeholder partnership networks and promote grassroots stakeholder engagement, (3) increase outreach and dissemination of programs and resources, including mental health educational materials, (4) support and engage a network of mental health leaders and advocates to outreach and disseminate resources and programs, with priority of increasing help-seeking behaviors among younger age individuals, (5) provide resource, technical assistance, and capacity building support to County Behavioral Health Agencies and their partners to support local PEI and leverage resources, (6) implement the annual Directing Change Program, which educates young people about critical health topics like suicide prevention and mental health and wellbeing through the medium of film and art, and (7) provide data and evaluation of the reach of programs within counties and statewide.

In order to participate in the program, VCBH will be required to transfer funding in the amount of \$81,186 to CalMHSA within 30 days of execution of the agreement. CalMHSA will act as the fiscal and administrative agent for the program and contract with subject matter experts to support the goals and efforts of the program.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services, in the amount of \$81,186, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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

In order to quickly respond to future requests from CalMHSA to make non-substantive changes to the agreement or extend the agreement, VCBH is requesting authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign future amendments and extensions, so long as the amendments and extensions are consistent with the original purpose of the Agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County beyond any Board approved increases made to the agreement amount in FY 2021-22, subject to County Counsel review and approval. All extensions are subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by the Board.

#### **Recommendation #3:**

**Seneca** provides CSU program services for VCBH. The CSU is the front-end of the continuum of care for children's mental health crisis services in Ventura County, providing a multi-disciplinary risk assessment to youth experiencing a mental health crisis and interventions to promote stabilization, family involvement, and safety planning to access

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CalMHSA Participation Agreement for Statewide PEI and Seneca CSU 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
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the least restrictive, most appropriate level of care. The CSU provides mental health interventions that are necessary to divert minors from hospitalization and safely discharge the minors to community services. The CSU is certified as a Crisis Stabilization Unit. Crisis stabilization means a service lasting less than 24 hours. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1810.210.) The primary objective of the CSU is to promptly evaluate and/or stabilize minors presenting with acute symptoms or distress without hospital admission. In FY 2020-21, the CSU provided crisis stabilization services to 372 youth (July through April). Of those, 44% avoided hospitalization. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and MHSA funding.

In FY 2020-21, additional costs arose to keep Seneca facilities in compliance with COVID regulations. Supplemental costs included those for cleaning supplies, sanitation procedures, and cleaning crews, as well as treatment materials and personal protective equipment for clients. This amendment increases budget line items Building Management and Treatment Supplies by \$3,600 each and decreases Staff Travel and Airfare by \$4,500 and \$2,700, respectively. These adjustments do not affect the contract maximum.

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 Director Sevet Johnson or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 981-1881.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director



BARRY ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 – CalMHSA Participation Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – FY 2020-21 Seneca CSU 14th Amendment