

July 26, 2022

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

**SUBJECT: Approval and Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ventura County Medi-Cal Managed Care Commission dba Gold Coast Health Plan Specifying the Terms and Conditions Applicable to the Provision of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Eating Disorder Services to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries, Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; Authorization for the VCBH Director or Designee to Amend the MOU to Make Limited Modifications and to Extend the Term.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approval and ratification of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ventura County Medi-Cal Managed Care Commission dba Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) specifying the terms and conditions applicable to the provision of mental health, substance use disorder, and eating disorder services to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries (Exhibit 1), effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments to the GCHP MOU making corrections, clarifications, technical changes, and other modifications, provided that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the MOU, do not result in additional cost to the County, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.
3. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments to the GCHP MOU to extend the term of the MOU for up to two additional one-year periods, subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

## **REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

Additional time was needed to negotiate the terms of the MOU, specifically with respect to the new California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) eating disorder services requirements. This MOU is being presented to your Board at the first available opportunity.

## **FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact related to the proposed recommendations.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Recommendation #1:**

On December 15, 2020, your Board approved an MOU between the County of Ventura and GCHP regarding the provision of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Ventura County. That MOU clarified and further defined the roles and responsibilities, access, and care coordination of specialty mental health, non-specialty mental health services, and SUD services. Under the MOU, VCBH provides or arranges for specialty mental health services for eligible individuals, and GCHP provides or arranges for non-specialty mental health services for eligible individuals, as specified in the GCHP Medi-Cal Managed Care contract with the DHCS. Non-specialty mental health services covered by GCHP are for individuals with mild to moderate impairment of mental, emotional or behavioral functioning resulting from a mental health disorder. Specialty mental health services provided by VCBH are for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness. DHCS has established the criteria for eligibility and the provision of services under both the specialty mental health and non-specialty mental health service programs. The 2020 MOU also included provisions related to SUD services and specifically clarified definitions, roles, access, care coordination, and the timelines requested by DHCS. In addition to this information, care coordination with GCHP through the 24/7 Beneficiary Access Line schedule was also delineated.

Before your Board today is a new MOU that is substantially similar to the 2020 MOU, but which will replace it and further define the roles and responsibilities of VCBH and GCHP with respect to providing specialty mental health services, non-specialty mental health services, SUD services, and eating disorder services. Specifically, the proposed MOU includes: (1) revisions to the criteria for access to specialty mental health services, non-specialty mental health services, and SUD services, (2) revisions to the dispute resolution requirements, (3) addition of new eating disorder service requirements, roles, and responsibilities, (4) revision of various care coordination, grievance and appeal, and policies and procedures requirements, and (5) deletion of Exhibit A, Attachment 2 (Drugs Excluded from MCP Coverage). These various revisions are required per DHCS and some as part of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal, a DHCS initiative.

VCBH recommends approval and ratification of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the MOU specifying the terms and conditions applicable to the provision of mental health, SUD, and eating disorder services with GCHP, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

**Recommendation #2:**

VCBH also recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign future amendments to the GCHP MOU making corrections, clarifications, technical changes, and other modifications, provided that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the MOU, do not result in additional cost to the County, and are approved as to form by County Counsel.

**Recommendation #3:**

VCBH also recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments to the GCHP MOU to extend the term of the MOU for up to two additional one-year periods, subject to 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 VCBH Assistant Director Loretta Denering at (805) 973-5186 or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 981-1881.

  
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director

  
BARRY ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – FY 22-23 GCHP MOU