

December 4, 2018

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 Department of Health Services Standard Agreement No. 17-94706 Amendment A01, for Federal Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program Services, Effective January 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019; Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director or Designee to Sign, Future Amendments to the Agreement.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign, the Department of Health Services (DHCS) Standard Agreement No. 17-94706 Amendment A01 (Exhibit 1), for Federal Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program Services (CCP), modifying the terms and conditions of the Agreement, effective January 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019.
2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, future amendments within the term of the Agreement to make corrections, clarifications, and technical changes provided that the County Executive Office and County Counsel approve of the changes and that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the Agreement and do not result in additional costs to Ventura County (County).

## **FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact for the initial grant was included in the letter to your Board dated July 31, 2018. There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Pursuant to the Stafford Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides assistance to states that suffer natural disasters. Section 416 of that Act authorizes FEMA to fund behavioral health services and training following a natural disaster. Pursuant to that section of the Act, FEMA funds crisis counseling and related services through the Federal CCP for a limited period of time. The mission of CCP is to assist individuals and communities to recover from the effects of natural and man-made disasters by providing community-based outreach and psycho-education services. Services are short-term interventions including: assisting disaster survivors in understanding their current situation and reactions, mitigating stress, assisting survivors in reviewing their disaster recovery options, promoting the use and development of coping strategies, providing emotional support, and encouraging linkages with other individuals and agencies that may help survivors recover to pre-disaster functioning.

In response to the Thomas Fire, on July 31, 2018 your Board approved and authorized the VCBH Director or designee to sign the Standard Agreement No. 17-94706 with DHCS for CCP services, in the amount of \$1,034,782, effective January 15, 2018 through March 31, 2019. On October 29, 2018, VCBH received notification from DHCS that modifications have been made to the agreement. VCBH is currently working with DHCS regarding a new agreement in response to the Woolsey and Hill fires that have recently impacted our county.

The Agreement provides VCBH with CCP funding to provide crisis counseling and related services. In early March of 2018, VCBH implemented the California HOPE of Ventura County program. The program is comprised of a clinical team that has been FEMA trained to provide free and confidential community-based counseling services to Thomas Fire survivors. During the past eight months (March 2018 through November 2018), the team has made over 5,295 in-person brief supportive counseling contacts, 705 telephone contacts by crisis counselor, and 626 email contacts.

The proposed Amendment A01 to the Standard Agreement: (1) extends the contract term by one month, through April 30, 2019, (2) replaces Exhibit D(C) with Exhibit D(F) due to the addition of federal funding and continues performance of the same Scope of Work, (3) amends provision 1 (Invoicing and Payment) of Exhibit B - Budget Detail and Payment Provisions to include updates related to the preparation and submission of invoices, and (4) adds contract language in Exhibit E related to the dispute resolution process.

VCBH recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign, the Standard Agreement No. 17-94706 Amendment A01 with the DHCS, in the amount of \$1,034,782, effective January 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact Sevet Johnson at (805) 981-1881



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director



NARCISA R. EGAN  
Assistant Chief Financial Officer



JOHNSON K. GILL  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Amendment A01 to the Standard Agreement No. 17-94706