

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 02/23/2005
Department Name: Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: 03/22/2005
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: James L. Broderick, Ph.D., Director
Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services

STAFF CONTACT: Carrie Topliffe, ADMHS Assistant Director - Administration
805.681.5231

SUBJECT: Transitions - Mental Health Association, Growing Grounds II Contract.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and execute a contract with Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA), a local vendor, to provide Horticulture Rehabilitation mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents for the period of July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, in the amount of \$115,345.
2. Authorize the Director of ADMHS to approve amendments to the proposed contract, provided that any such amendments do not exceed ten percent (10%) of the contract's dollar amount.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Transitions Mental Health Association operates the Growing Grounds II (GGII) Farm located on Foster Road in Santa Maria. The farm is an organic, low impact, Horticulture Rehabilitation program designed to help clients practice work skills, develop confidence, and receive rehabilitation services in a friendly, supportive, rural but professional environment.

TMHA has been in the process of improving the facilities at and near the farm in order to improve the level, amount and quality of the Rehabilitation Services they provide. As part of the improvement process, a ten year lease was requested in order to lengthen the time TMHA would be able to offset the cost of their site improvement expenses. This longer lease, which is still in process, has such complexity that the parties, County Counsel, General Service, ADMHS and TMHA, agreed to this interim one year contract in order to allow TMHA to bill for Medi-Cal Rehab Services during FY2004-05.

Performance Measures:

The Growing Grounds II contract will assist ADMHS in meeting **Recurring Performance Measure (RPM) 215**, to provide effective mental health services to 4200 seriously mentally ill adults.

Outcomes:

Transitions Mental Health Association is making a difference in the lives of the severely mentally ill in North County. TMHA conducted an annual client "satisfaction survey" in May, 2004. Each client surveyed reported feeling "better about myself", and reported that the "overall quality of my life has improved because I am working." Each of those clients also stated they would, "recommend the Transitions vocational (programs) to others".

During FY2003-04, twenty five mental health consumers either worked for pay or volunteered at the GGII Farm. Clients earned \$16,000 in wages and received 1,170 hours (80,469 minutes) in rehab services. These minutes resulted in more than \$175,000, billed to Medi-Cal for rehabilitative services provided to Santa Barbara County residents.

The GGII Farm in Santa Maria was the subject of a program evaluation completed by staff at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The evaluation of Mental Health Treatment Court (MHTC) clients who received horticultural therapy treatments at the Growing Grounds Farm indicated a reduction of negative mental health symptoms over six month and twelve-month periods.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Mental Health Services are mandated by the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5600.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The TMHA contract is funded by Medi-Cal and realignment funds. These funding sources are identified in the Adopted FY 2004-05, Budget, line items 5404, Medi-Cal; and 4102, realignment funds in the Adult Services Division, page D-146.

This action will not result in a need for any additional facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please send one (1) fully executed copy of the contract and an endorsed minute order to:

Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services
ATTN: Dana Fahey, Contracts Analyst
300 N. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
Risk Management