



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: John Winckler, LMFT, Division Chief Clinical Operations and
Chief of Crisis and Homeless Services, (805) 681-5220
**SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Agreement with Reins of H.O.P.E. (Reins of Human
Opportunity Partnering with Equines), Fiscal Year 2021-2023**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Reins of H.O.P.E. (Reins of Human Opportunity Partnering with Equines)**, a California nonprofit (not a local vendor), for the implementation and provision of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program services for youth and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) from March 15, 2022 through November 30, 2022 with each party bearing its own program costs and expenses (Attachment A);
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness, or designee, the authority to take the following actions regarding the Agreement without needing to return to the Board of Supervisors for formal amendment of the Agreement and subject to the Board's authority to rescind this delegated authority at any time: to suspend without cause; make immaterial changes; order Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under this Agreement in whole or in part for up to 120 days; and to amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures in Exhibit E; and
- C. Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text: The above-referenced item is on the agenda to request that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Reins of H.O.P.E. for the implementation and provision of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program services for youth and TAY from March 15, 2022 through November 30, 2022 with each party bearing its own program costs and expenses. These services are designed to enhance the youth and TAY participants' mental health.

Background: Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Specialty mental health services are provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and other individuals to the extent resources allow. BWell also provides mental health programs to enhance the system of care to allow clients to improve their overall mental health.

Reins of H.O.P.E.'s professional team consist of Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) Certified Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Equine Specialist who operate an Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) Program. EAP uses horses as co-therapists for emotional growth and learning. EAP is known as an effective form of experiential therapy that strengthens and develops non-verbal and verbal communication, assertiveness, creative thinking and problem-solving, leadership, trust, responsibility, confidence, and relationships. Reins of H.O.P.E. staff includes Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists certified by the EAGALA.

The Reins of H.O.P.E. Agreement defines the scope, purpose, roles and responsibilities of each party for the pilot EAP Program to provide group therapy to youth ages 10 – 15 years old and TAY ages 16 – 24 years old who receive services and are open to the County and are provided services in Lompoc. A participant may attend two (2), eight (8) week sessions for a total of sixteen (16) weeks if it is warranted, if space is available, and the County and Reins of H.O.P.E. agree to accept the participant.

Reins of H.O.P.E. will provide horses and arrange for facilities in Santa Ynez to implement the program. Youth and TAY clients will not ride the horses and will instead work with the therapist and others to communicate with each other to groom the horses and build their skills to problem solve and develop trust with others.

BWell will provide staff to work in collaboration with Reins of H.O.P.E. to implement the program, oversee the referral process, and transport County youth and TAY clients for participation in the program.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

The program goals are to improve the mental health of participants by enhancing communication and problem-solving skills, building confidence, and creating trust in self and relationships through EAP-tailored interactive activities that enhance the horse-human relationship; increase adolescent and TAY participant engagement in services; and improve social skills and emotional regulation of the clients.

Performance Measures:

To gauge the effectiveness of the program, the Performance Outcomes of the program will be measured by the Contractor's pre and post assessment along with the CANS and PSC assessments conducted by the County.

Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: Each party to the above-referenced Agreement will bear its own program costs and expenses. Reins of H.O.P.E. will fund its part of the program through November 2022 through an unrestricted \$5,000 donation it solicited from the Judith Knell Binder Family Foundation. BWell's services are provided as part of the ongoing Rehabilitative Medi-Cal billable services provided to beneficiaries. BWell will utilize existing staff for this program consisting of four staff. Since BWell's services are Medi-Cal billable, BWell may be able to support the program long-term in combination with ongoing donations or grant funding provided to Reins of H.O.P.E.

Key Contract Risks:

There is always a risk that BeWell Medi-Cal charges could be disallowed. To mitigate this risk, BWell has policies and procedures for the provision of Medi-Cal billable services.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed contract and one (1) minute order to dmorales@co.santa-barbara.ca.us and bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Reins of H.O.P.E. FY 21-23 Agreement
Attachment B: Reins of H.O.P.E Donation Letter

Authored by:

D. Morales