



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 2, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220  
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, J.D., Deputy Director of Administration and  
Operations, Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220  
**SUBJECT:** California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) – First Amendment to  
Participation Agreement for MHSA Innovation Program (a.k.a. Help@Hand)  
for FY 2019-2024

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**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, ratify and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to **California Mental Health Services Authority** (CalMHSA) Participation Agreement for Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Innovation Program (a.k.a. Help@Hand) (Agreement No. 445-ITS-2019-SB-A1) to update the Exhibit B General Terms and Conditions and Exhibit C County Specific Scope and Funding with no change to the administrative fee or the overall contract of \$1,520,873 for the Help@Hand program for the procurement of technology services from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024; and
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to request approval of the recommended action authorizing the Chair to enter into a First Amendment to the Innovation Program (Help@Hand) to update the agreement to incorporate language for the closure of the program when the agreement terminates and update the language for fiscal provision for the procurement of technology and technology services. Approval of the recommended

action will allow the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to continue offering greater access to peer support through technology, behavioral health services, and linkages to treatment.

**Background:**

BWell is a member of CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under Gov. Code §6500 et seq. and serves California counties as an independent administrative and fiscal intergovernmental structure for jointly developing, funding, and implementing mental health services and educational programs at the state, regional, and local levels. CalMHSA oversees the administrative services for several programs in collaboration with Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), which includes the MHSA Innovation Program Technology Suite, now known as “Help@Hand.

CalMHSA is the acting fiscal agent for this multi-county technology collaboration focused on an online communication designed to meet the needs of mental health clients. They provide overall administrative oversight and contract procurement, including program management, evaluation, establishment of peer chat, digital therapeutics, community engagement and outreach activities.

Help@Hand program was included as part of the Department’s Mental Health Services Act Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, approved by the BWell Commission on June 20, 2018 and the Board of Supervisors on July 17, 2018. BWell submitted a five (5)-year Technology Suite Collaborative Innovation Plan for the amount of \$4,912,852, and on September 27, 2018, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved it. On August 13, 2019 the Board approved the CalMHSA Innovation Participation Agreement (445-ITS-2019-SB).

This First Amendment (445-ITS-2019-SB-A1), updates the Agreement to incorporate language for the closure of the program when the agreement terminates and adds fiscal provisions for the procurement of technology services. The BWell funding of \$1,520,873 remains the same. Help@Hand aids in the implementation and deployment of the Peer-to-Peer Chat and Digital Therapeutics (“PPCDT”) applications. These applications offer a free, voluntary, and mobile web-based network of trained peers available to chat 24/7 with individuals (or their family members/caregivers) experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Help@Hand and other digital applications offer an array of potentially life-changing tools to advance the well-being and recovery of behavioral health clients in Santa Barbara County.

**Performance Measure:**

CalMHSA’s administration of this program has resulted in more cost-effective rates, reduced demands on County administrative services, and increased efficiency in implementation of services. They maintain all records and provide regular fiscal reports to the Department.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Impact:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>FY 19-20 Cost</u></b>	<b><u>FY 20-21 Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>FY 21-22 Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>FY 22-23 Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>FY 23-24 Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total Amount</u></b>
General Fund						
State	\$ 585,341	\$ 233,883	\$ 233,883	\$ 233,883	\$ 233,883	\$1,520,873
Federal						
Fees						
Other:						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 585,341</b>	<b>\$ 233,883</b>	<b>\$ 233,883</b>	<b>\$ 233,883</b>	<b>\$ 233,883</b>	<b>\$1,520,873</b>

Narrative: The funding for Help@Hand comes from the Mental Health Services Act Innovations fund. The funding sources were approved by the Board for FY 20-21 and will be included in the recommended budgets for FYs 21-24.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The County may withdraw from the Program upon 6 months' written notice to CalMHSA; however, withdrawal does not automatically terminate the County's responsibility for its share of the expenses and liabilities of the Program. If BWell withdrew from the Participation Agreement, we would be responsible for the additional administrative cost, including negotiation with technology vendors, accounts payable and monitoring.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the above Participation Agreement to Denise Morales at [dmorales@sbcbswell.org](mailto:dmorales@sbcbswell.org) and [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: CalMHSA FY 19-24 MHSA Innovation Program (Help@Hand) - No. 445-ITS-2019-SB-A1

Attachment B: CalMHSA FY 19-24 MHSA Innovation Program (Help@Hand) - No. 445-ITS-2019-SB

**Authored by:**

D. Morales