



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: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: July 13, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD,
Director Public Health Department
George Chapjian, Director,
Community Services
Contact Info: Dana Gamble, LCSW 681-5171
Interim Deputy Director, Primary Care & Family Health
Kimberlee Albers, Community Services 560-1090
SUBJECT: Contractor Agreement with New Beginnings Counseling Center to assist
Homeless Senior Citizens

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 New Beginnings Counseling Center Agreement funded through the California Department of Health Care Services Whole Person Care-Like Capacity Program and passed through the Public Health Department to the Community Services Department in the amount of \$498,750 to provide supportive services to assist homeless senior citizens for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024; and
- b) Receive and file an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the County Public Health Department and the County Community Services Department for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 that establishes a collaboration to address the housing needs of the homeless senior population, and for the Public Health Department to provide pass-through of funding of \$525,000 (\$498,750 for allocation to New Beginnings Counseling Center and \$26,250 for administrative fees) to the Community Services Department; and
- c) Determine that the above activities are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines,

because the actions are the creation of a government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to execute the contractor agreement between the County and the New Beginnings Counseling Center (NBCC) in the amount of \$498,750 to provide Supportive Services to assist Homeless Senior citizens to further the aims of the Whole Person Care-Like Capacity Program – Housing for Seniors Program including the development of programmatic activities to expand access to permanent housing and/or structured transitional housing for seniors aged 55 and older who have recently become homeless, or are at immediate risk of being homeless (Attachment A). The Housing for Medically Vulnerable Seniors Program addresses the immediate unsheltered homelessness challenges of vulnerable seniors prioritizing those that resided in or currently reside in Roomkey shelters by providing them with case management, rental assistance and rapid rehousing services in order to transition these families and individuals into permanent housing. The County, through its Community Services Department will oversee NBCC's performance and conduct the review, approval and payment of invoices utilizing Whole Person Care-Like Capacity Program – Housing for Seniors Program dollars passed through the Public Health Department.

Background:

California's Whole Person Care-Like Capacity Program coordinates health, behavioral health, and social services in a patient-centered manner with the goal of improved beneficiary health and well-being. Low-income populations are more likely to experience a multitude of health, behavioral health, and social needs, requiring them to seek care across multiple and fragmented systems. The need for a Whole Person Care (WPC) approach arose due to unmet social, behavioral health, and health needs within Santa Barbara County's vulnerable senior population.

There are nearly 5,700 patients over the age of 55 who receive their care at the Public Health Department (PHD) Health Care Centers. Approximately 14% (~770) of these patients are known to be experiencing homelessness. Due to the high cost of housing in the south county, there are many more elderly at risk for becoming homeless. These at risk individuals are low income and frequently seen in PHD's Health Care Centers.

As a contractor through this Agreement, NBCC will provide case management supportive services assisting prioritized senior clients (age 55 and older) who are referred through the Coordinated Entry System and the PHD to identify and match them to appropriate housing; to assist clients with rent and other move-in expenses; and, work with senior clients to navigate and ultimately overcome barriers that may prevent them from maintaining their housing long term.

In addition, NBCC will provide temporary financial assistance in order to house seniors including, but is not limited to, searching for available housing units, helping clients to become document-ready for housing, negotiating with landlords, completing housing applications, household budgeting, rental unit inspections, accompanying clients to landlord meetings, searching for employment, applying for benefits, obtaining legal, behavioral health and other community resources, etc.

Once housed, housing retention services will include arranging for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and other support services, assisting with securing medication, scheduling medical appointments, arranging transportation, providing education around harm reduction, providing help with ADLs, managing hoarding, obtaining food assistance, etc.

Performance Measure:

The Contractor will meet the following performance measures during the term of the Agreement:

Supportive Services		Goal
% of participants that will move into permanent housing during enrollment		85%
% of participants that will regularly engage in primary care		75%
% of participants that will decrease number of emergency department visits		50%
% of participants that will decrease number of hospitalizations		40%
% of participants gaining new or increasing income during enrollment		10%
% of participants that will improve health outcomes during enrollment		40%

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

The funding amount for the New Beginning Counseling Center of \$498,750 and for the Community Services Department for administration of \$26,250 for this three-year contractor agreement, will be expended from the one-time funding of \$1,166,412.39 received by the Public Health Department for the Whole Person Care-Like Capacity (WPC-Like) Program in March 2020. This WPC-like program may inform program development for CenCal Health as the State begins its transition to the CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) program which is a multi-year initiative to improve quality of life and health outcomes for low income Californians.

The Public Health and Community Services Departments will return to your Board on August 17, 2021 with a Budget Revision to amend the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget for the program appropriation.

Key Contract Risks

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of the Whole Person Care-Like Capacity Program in accordance with all state requirements governing their use. NBCC and CSD have successfully operated homeless assistance projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The Contractor Agreement with New Beginnings Counseling Center to assist Homeless Senior Citizens is a cost-reimbursement contract. This allows CSD to disburse state funds to NBCC for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse NBCC for costs that are eligible under the Agreement and documented in a manner that is acceptable to CSD. CSD staff will assess the performance of NBCC to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outlined in the Agreement. The Agreement also contains the County’s standard clause allowing termination for convenience, which further reduces risk.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Please execute two (2) Agreements with New Beginnings Counseling Center and retain one (1) executed Agreement and a copy of the Minute Order for pickup by PHD. Please email Kelly.Lazarus@sbcphd.org when the documents are ready.

Attachments:

- A. New Beginnings Counseling Center Contractor Agreement
- B. DHCS Whole Person Care Grant Award Letter dated December 26, 2019
- C. MOU between PHD and Community Services Departments for Housing for Medically Vulnerable Seniors Program
- D. Whole Person Care Grant Acceptance Executed Resolution

Authored by:

Dana Gamble, LCSW Interim Deputy Director, Public Health Department