

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AGENCY DIVISIONS

Administration & Finance
Behavioral Health
Community Services
Protective Services
Public Health
Self-Sufficiency

DATE: October 31, 2023

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Cc: Tiffany Schmid, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Olivia Byron-Cooper, Director of Health & Human Services Agency *OBC*

SUBJECT: Retroactive MOU Notification – Item 23-1677, 12/12/23
Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 8008

This memo is to notify you that a retroactive MOU request has been created and is on the Board of Supervisor's Agenda for December 12, 2023 (File ID: 23-1677). HHSA staff work to minimize these requests where we can do so. Specific to this situation, a retroactive request was unavoidable and I wanted to provide you with the background context.

The PERT Project is a collaboration between the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and Behavioral Health. Clinicians are partnered with a Crisis Intervention Trained Deputy to provide direct mobile crisis response services, anywhere in the community, in partnership with the El Dorado Sheriff Deputies. The PERT Team carefully evaluates each situation, assesses the mental health status of each individual, and provides individualized interventions in the field, which may include, but are not limited to, safety planning, referral to community-based resources, and crisis intervention. The PERT team also provides follow-up services to individuals in need of PERT crisis intervention to provide stabilization and linkage to services. MHPA funds Behavioral Health Clinician(s) and one Sheriff Deputy position.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) #22-064 (superseded by BHIN #23-025) was provided to counties on December 19, 2022 which mandates that counties provide for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week mobile crisis response by December 31, 2023. Following this Information Notice, DHCS has been providing Counties technical guidance and additional regulatory standards for the development of mandated mobile crisis services, of which the existing PERT Project would necessarily be a part. This required a re-evaluation of how to proceed with the integration of existing Monday-Thursday PERT services into an expanded 24 hour a day, 7 day per week model as the June 30, 2023 expiration of MOU 4888 approached.

Given the many changing regulatory requirements initiated around the mobile crisis system development, and the lack of clarity regarding what implications these changes would have

for the PERT Project, staff were unable to incorporate the required elements before July 1, 2023. Through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023/24, there are still discussions occurring for how the mandated Mobile Crisis services will be administered and how that would impact PERT. It was recognized that PERT services are intrinsically valuable to the community and will continue in alignment with the FY 2023/24-2025/26 MHSA Three Year Plan and that an MOU to continue services, as is, was necessary without a break in services provided. Therefore, HHSA is recommending approval of this MOU with a retroactive start date of July 1, 2023.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further.