

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: December 2, 2024

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

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

SUBJECT: Retroactive Start Dates for future Agreement for Services with out-of-County Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) (other counties and out of County providers)

This memo is to notify you that Board Item 24-2106, for the provision of Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) on behalf of El Dorado County (EDC) youth placed in an out-of-county Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), has been requested by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Behavioral Health Division (BHD) and is targeted for the Board of Supervisor's Agenda for 12/10/2024. Within this agenda item, HHS is bringing two STRTP Single Case Client Agreement templates to the Board, which are County Counsel and Risk Management approved (one is to enter into with other counties and the other for out-of-County located STRTP providers) along with an accompanying Resolution asking for the Board to authorize HHS to enter into these agreements as needed for out-County-youth SMHS placements. The Resolution includes authorization for HHS to enter into these contracts retroactively, as needed, to ensure timely and urgent client placement.

On behalf of the County, HHS contracts with the State as the Mental Health Plan (MHP). As the MHP, HHS is required to provide, or arrange for, SMHS for youth who meet eligibility criteria established by California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 14184.402. Per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 9 Sections 1810.247 and 1810.345, mandated SMHS includes placement at an STRTP facility when determined to be clinically appropriate.

Additionally, Assembly Bill 1051 declared, and was further clarified by Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 24-025, that because certain residential placements are intended to be short term, the responsibility to provide and arrange for SMHS for children in such placements shall remain with the county of original jurisdiction (rather than the youth's current county of residence). Importantly, BHIN 24-025 states that such out-of-county placements should not disrupt continuity of care or adversely impact timely payment to providers.

To provide these mandated services as the MHP, the County must actively contract with STRTP providers throughout the State and, when necessary, other counties. In order for the County to meet the need for urgent out-of-County STRTP placements, HHSA is seeking Board approval to enter into retroactive STRTP agreements with other counties or out-of-County STRTP facility providers for placements of Clients. The retroactive request is to allow the County to ensure the timely delivery of mandated SMHS services, and to enable the County to meet its MHP service requirements.

In the proposed Resolution, the Board of Supervisors will authorize the HHSA Director, or Chief Assistant Director, to execute the STRTP agreements utilizing said templates, allowing a retroactive start date of the agreements if required due to the Client placement urgency by HHSA Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health Division, or County Probation Department Juvenile Services, including any future amendments that do not increase the total maximum obligation beyond \$300,000 or exceed an 18-month term, contingent upon final approval by County Counsel and Risk Management, if applicable.

It is important to note that the funding realized by the STRTP Single Case agreements are funded through the federal Medi-Cal program or has been included in HHSA's Board adopted Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Expenditure Plan so there is no impact to County General Fund.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.