

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 31, 2024

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

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

SUBJECT: Retroactive Renewal of Agreement for Services – Item 24-1914, 2/25/25
Sierra Child and Family Services, # 9074

This memo is to notify you that a retroactive contract request has been created and is on the Board of Supervisor's Agenda for February 25, 2025 (File ID: 24-1914). HHSA staff work to minimize these requests where we can control. Specific to this situation, a retroactive contract was unavoidable and I wanted to provide you with the background context.

The Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) which is managed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has shifted from being disbursed as a state appropriation to Counties to a grant application process. This has had the impact of both increased administrative burden and associated processes as a reflection of grant requirements and removing the assurance that this funding could be counted on annually by County Behavioral Health Plans.

At the Board of Supervisors regular meeting on January 14, 2020 (19-1461), following the successful conclusion of Request for Proposal (RFP) 20-918-029, Sierra Child and Family Services (Sierra) was awarded contract 4342 to provide these services. Due to the nature of services and need to continue provider/client care without interruption they have maintained subsequent contracts 5012 (File ID: 20-0908), 5417 (File ID: 21-0002), and 6989 (File ID: 23-0186).

In accordance with Procurement Policy C-17, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 24-0047 was released April 17, 2024, in anticipation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 MHBG award. Contract 6989 (File Id: 24-0715) was extended by an additional month under C-17 exemption 3.4 (6) due to the pending RFQ process.

Sierra was the sole qualified respondent and selected by the County to continue services.

For the current application cycle, El Dorado County Behavioral Health Division (EDC BHD) staff anticipated the MHBG application process to begin in May 2024 as it had been released in previous years, however the application for FY 2024-2026 funding was not sent by DHCS until June 14, 2024. The completed MHBG application was submitted to DHCS on June 28, 2024. Following the submission, DHCS provided the (attached) Award Notice confirmation on August 7,

2024 while the current contract cycle concluded on July 31, 2024 which was insufficient time to permit a new contract be developed and put in place.

Following the June 30, 2024 termination of contract 6989, and the one month extension allowed which expired on July 31, 2024, retroactive approval is being requested to minimize a lapse that would be detrimental to the treatment of our vulnerable youth population. Continuity of care and avoiding disruption in services is important for the model being utilized to prevent negative impact to the treatment participants, who benefit from a specialized model that is designed to mitigate the progression of psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia in young adults.

For the specific provenance of the funding, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) provides grant funds to establish or expand an organized community-based system of care for providing non-Title XIX mental health services to children with serious emotional disturbances (SED) and adults with serious mental illness (SMI). States are required to submit an application for each fiscal year the State is seeking funds. These funds are used to: (1) carry out the State plan contained in the application; (2) evaluate programs and services, and; (3) conduct planning, administration, and educational activities related to the provision of services. Much of the MHBG-funded services in California are provided to individuals that otherwise may not have public or private health insurance.

DHCS distributes MHBG funding to participating county mental health departments and encourages counties to implement innovative programs and services that may not be funded by typical mainstream mental health programs. Counties are allowed full flexibility (within the limits of allowable activity requirements) to fund programs that provide maximum impact and positive outcomes to their residents.

In El Dorado County this funding supports the provision of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and First Episode Psychosis (FEP) services.

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