

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: September 25, 2025

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Sue Hennike, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

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

SUBJECT: Retroactive Renewal of Agreement for Services – Item 25-1609, 10/28/2025
California Hearing Officers, LLP

This memo is to notify you that retroactive contract 9689 with California Hearing Officers, LLP (CA Hearing Officers) for the provision of certification review hearing services has been requested by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Behavioral Health Division and is on the Board of Supervisor's Agenda for October 28, 2025 (File ID: 25-1609).

HHS provides for the operation of a sixteen-bed, twenty-four (24) hour a day, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) to meet the needs of persons aged eighteen (18) years and older who are exhibiting acute psychiatric symptoms. When a person is certified for involuntary treatment at the PHF pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) § 5250 or § 5270.15, WIC § 5256 requires a certification review hearing be held within four (4) days of the date on which the person was certified for involuntary treatment. WIC § 5256.1 further requires that said certification review hearing be conducted by a court-appointed commissioner, a referee, or a certification review hearing officer (CRHO), and sets forth the specific qualifications of said CRHO.

HHS has contracted with CA Hearing Officers for the provision of certification review hearing services since 2019. These services are currently being provided under Agreement #6782, which is set to expire September 30, 2025. The Behavioral Health Division submitted the renewal request on May 29, 2025, and negotiations with the vendor began June 11, 2025. However, despite beginning contract negotiations early and maintaining clear, consistent communication, HHS was unable to obtain final approval of the draft with enough time to meet the intended BOS date of September 30, 2025. As a result, a retroactive start date has become necessary. Should there be a lapse in contract terms with CA Hearing Officers, HHS will be unable to provide the required certification review hearings and will be out of compliance with WIC § 5256.

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