

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	May 13, 2025
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CATEGORY: Consent Calendar 9

SUBJECT: Approve a retroactive renewal agreement with Hill Country Community Clinic for a mental health wellness and recovery program in Eastern Shasta County.

DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency-Behavioral Health and Social Services

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Bailey Cogger, HHSA Deputy Branch Director - Behavioral Health and Social Services, (530) 225-5900

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Cindy Lane, HHSA Branch Director - Behavioral Health and Social Services

Vote Required? Simple Majority Vote	General Fund Impact? No General Fund Impact
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RECOMMENDATION

Approve a retroactive renewal agreement with Hill Country Community Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$761,225, for a mental health wellness and recovery program in Eastern Shasta County for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION

In November 2004, California voters approved the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which provides funding dedicated to the support of community mental health programs. As part of Shasta County’s Rural Mental Health program, Hill Country Community Clinic (Hill Country) provides mental health wellness and recovery services through the Circle of Friends program for individuals suffering from mental illness, and their family members, who reside in the Intermountain area of Shasta County. While Circle of Friends does not provide direct mental health treatment, it does an excellent job at providing social support and assistance in obtaining or accessing mental health treatment and other community resources.

Program participant goals include increasing time spent in meaningful activities, increasing satisfaction and level of involvement in the community, and reducing the adverse consequences of untreated or under-treated serious mental illness. Since the inception of the program, Hill Country has met all of the required objectives. Circle of Friends offers more monthly activities than required by the agreement. Activities are educational and social in nature, and they are rooted in wellness, recovery and resiliency. The participants of Circle of Friends have consistently reported improvement in the following areas: knowledge about where to go for help and services, their ability to advocate for themselves, receipt of services that support independent living, ability to create and sustain personal relationships, and have reported fewer instances of homelessness and arrest. The participants have also reported a greater feeling of safety in their community.

The agreement also includes funding to maintain a Hill Country staff member as a Copeland Center-certified Level Three Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing trainer, who can then conduct trainings in Level One and Level Two Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing trainings. To implement this program in accordance with an evidence-based model, at least two certified Level Three trainers must co-facilitate each Level One and Level Two group session. Level One is to develop individual client Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing plans in a group setting, while Level Two training allows participants to become Level One Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing Group facilitators. Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing trainings are provided to peer support specialists, volunteers, staff, interns and other interested community members.

Circle of Friends’ target population includes Shasta County Intermountain area residents aged 16 years and older with a serious mental illness, as well as their family members. Participants include individuals already engaged in mental health services as well as those who are not actively receiving mental health services.

For Fiscal Year 2023-24, Circle of Friends served an average of 125 unique individuals per month, including an average of 117 consumers and 7 family members per month. The number of participants for all Wellness Centers were approximately 47% male, 52% female, and about 1% Transgender or Other. Age groups for participants in Wellness Centers were approximately 4% Children/Youth (0-15), 6% Transition Age Youth (16-25), 75% Adults (26-59), 14% Older Adults (60+), and 1% Unknown. Race/Ethnicity for Wellness Center participants was approximately 67% Caucasian, 22% Native American, 6% Hispanic, and <1% Black/African American. For the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, there were 145 different activities, groups, and workshops available for participants, with approximately 1,153 opportunities to participate in one of the activities, groups or workshops.

This agreement is retroactive due to ongoing negotiations with Hill Country Community Clinic and staffing turnover within multiple County departments. During the time frame negotiations began on this agreement it was determined that switching to a fee-for-service model would be the most beneficial approach. This shift required the entire agreement be changed requiring multiple reviews and re-edits that are not common for contract negotiation contributing to the extensive delay in execution.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to approve the recommendation, defer consideration to a future date, or provide alternate direction to staff. Denying these recommendations would result in the rural area of Shasta County not having access to a Wellness Center for our most vulnerable population.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form. Risk Management has approved the agreement. This recommendation has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

The maximum amount payable for the entire term of this agreement is \$761,225. Costs incurred through this contract are funded entirely through a continuous appropriation of MHSA funds from the State. Shasta County MHSA Budget (BU 404) for FY 2024-25 includes sufficient appropriation authority for the activities described in this agreement and will be included in future year budget requests.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Hill Country Circle of Friends Agreement