

STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** June 17, 2024

**CATEGORY:** Consent Calendar 3

**SUBJECT:** Approve an amendment to the agreement with Hill Country Community Clinic for Mobile Crisis Team services which modifies the terms.

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

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #:** All

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** Miguel Rodriguez, Mental Health Director, HHSA Branch Director - Behavioral Health and Social Services, (530) 225-5900

**STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY:** Laura Burch, HHSA Director

<b><u>Vote Required?</u></b> Simple Majority Vote	<b><u>General Fund Impact?</u></b> No General Fund Impact
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**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve an amendment, effective date of signing to the agreement with Hill Country Community Clinic, which updates the Mobile Crisis Team protocols, increases the maximum compensation, adds a Mobile Crisis Experience Survey, and Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Services Benefit Dispatch Screening and Crisis Assessment Tool, retaining the term January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024.

**DISCUSSION**

Hill Country’s Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) offers mental health assistance and crisis intervention within the community, responding to requests for assistance from individuals, families, businesses, and law enforcement. HHSA staff, the Redding Police Department, Anderson Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, and representatives from both medical centers have been very positive about the benefits of having a true mobile crisis team that can respond to community needs as they occur in the field. Spending time providing clinical interventions to assist individuals through their mental health crisis reduces (1) the rate of unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations, (2) the impact of overcrowded emergency departments, and (3) the impact on law enforcement personnel when there are other alternatives available.

Since beginning service delivery in January of 2019, MCT averaged 92 responses per month in 2019, 118 responses per month in 2020, 169 responses per month in 2021, 208 responses per month in 2022, and 187 responses per month in 2023. In addition to the critical impacts listed above, these responses helped to reduce the burden on Emergency Medical Responders. The Mobile Crisis Team has also become a unique resource and support for local businesses and community members who are concerned about how someone is behaving and wish to facilitate assistance. Hill Country’s Mobile Crisis Team is a community leader in providing resources, education, interventions and helping destigmatize help-seeking for mental illness.

In December of 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) sent out Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 22-064, requiring County mental health plans (MHPs) to implement Medi-Cal Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services. In June of 2023 DHCS released BHIN 23-025, superseding BHIN 22-064. This amendment expands the operation of the existing Mobile Crisis Team to bring our County into compliance with service requirements in BHIN 23-025.

In January of 2024, DHCS changed their rate structure to better support the need for Mobile Crisis services. DHCS has not approved Shasta County’s Mobile Crisis plan as it requires an approved and executed contract by BOS for final approval of our plan. Once the contract has been approved, we will be able to submit our final plan to DHCS for approval.

This amendment increases service hours from 11 hours a day to 24 hours a day and adds the ability to service youth. In addition, the amendment increases the single encounter rate from \$67.12 to \$2,163.70, to align with DHCS’s January 2024 rate adjustment

and increases maximum compensation from \$685,850 to \$5,000,000. The new rate structure and service expansion will only come into effect upon DHCS approval of the County's final plan, which necessitates the full execution of the amendment. Again, once approved, the County can submit the plan to DHCS for final approval, enabling the utilization of new rates.

This amendment also adds the ability to bill at a lower rate of reimbursement, \$273 per hour, when crisis intervention is able to be done via telehealth rather than deploying the mobile crisis unit.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Board could choose not to approve the recommendation, defer consideration to a future date, or provide alternate direction to staff. If the Board does not approve the recommendation, Shasta County risks possible financial sanctions for non-compliance., per conversations with contracted subcontractor for DHCS, Advanced Healthcare Management.

**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 total cost of this agreement is \$5,000,000. Costs incurred through this contract are funded through a combination of federal Medicaid funds (approx. 50%) with a county match which is met through a combination of 1991 and 2011 Realignment revenue. Behavioral Health and Support Services' FY 2023-24 budget includes sufficient appropriation authority for the activities described in this amendment and will be included in future year budget submittals.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1: First Amendment to Hill Country Community Clinic Mobile Crisis Team Agreement