

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 9, 2024

CATEGORY: Consent Calendar 7

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement with Education Development Center, Inc., for suicide prevention training for behavioral health professionals and designate authority for related documents.

DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency-Public Health

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Robin Schurig, MPH, CPH, Public Health Branch Director, (530) 245-6869

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Robin Schurig, HHS Branch Director

Vote Required?

Simple Majority Vote

General Fund Impact?

No Additional General Fund Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Take the following actions: (1) Approve an agreement with Education Development Center, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$113,250 over the entire term of the agreement, to provide suicide prevention training for licensed mental and behavioral health clinicians and staff, effective date of signing and ending June 30, 2025; (2) approve and authorize the CEO, or their designee, to terminate this agreement; and (3) authorize the HHS Branch Director, or their designee, to sign minor amendments, including retroactive, that do not result in a substantial or functional change to the original intent of this agreement and do not cause an increase to the maximum amount payable, so long as they otherwise comply with Administrative Policy 6-101, *Shasta County Contracts Manual*.

DISCUSSION

In the United States, suicide is the second leading cause of death among those age 10-14 and the third leading cause of death for those age 15-24. It is the fifteenth leading cause of death worldwide. At a local level, Shasta County's age-adjusted suicide death rate from 2019-2021 (25.6 per 100,000 individuals) is more than double California's suicide death rate (10.3 per 100,000 individuals) from the same time period. Local data indicates that men and individuals 85+ years old are most impacted by suicide, and firearms are the most frequently used means in suicide deaths in Shasta County.

Shasta County was one of three counties in California to receive a multi-year award from the California Department of Public Health for the California Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Project. With this funding, Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Branch (HHS-PhB) has prioritized training for medical and behavioral health providers. Providing Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) training, will allow local providers to effectively recognize, assess, and manage diverse clients (inpatient, outpatient, and those in direct care) who present with risk through evidence-based training methods. A portion of these trainings will also meet the required state licensure requirements for behavioral health staff.

Approving this agreement will allow HHS-PhB to provide high quality, evidence-based training to our local behavioral health and healthcare providers to increase providers' ability to address suicide risk through effective questioning techniques, observational assessments, and safety planning skills. Training will also be provided to direct care staff who work in inpatient, outpatient, and/or behavioral health care settings to provide key strategies and techniques in providing compassionate care in their role. Providing training for providers and direct care staff is one strategy to increase suicide prevention activities in the community with an aim of reducing suicide morbidity and mortality rates.

Delegation and designation of authority to terminate this agreement allows for timely termination of this agreement by the CEO or their designee directly, in the event the consultant is unable to meet expectations, funding is no longer available, or services are no longer necessary, without having to return to the Board.

Delegation and designation of authority to sign minor amendments to this agreement allows for timely and efficient resolution of minor corrections or adjustments by the HHSA Director or their designee directly, without having to return to the Board. Future amendments eligible for approval by the HHSA Director will not increase the maximum amount payable and will not result in substantial or functional changes in regard to the original intent of this agreement and will otherwise comply with Administrative Policy 6-101, *Shasta County Contracts Manual*.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to approve the agreement, approve a portion of the recommended actions, defer consideration to a future date, or provide alternate direction to staff. Should the Board opt to not approve this agreement, HHSA-PHB would be unable to spend grant funding previously awarded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and would not be able to provide specialized suicide prevention trainings to behavioral health and healthcare professionals in Shasta County, resulting in a service gap for individuals contemplating suicide.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

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

FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget includes sufficient appropriation authority for the activities described in this agreement and will be requested in future budget submissions. Funding for this agreement is provided by the CDPH Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) through the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) Award – Grant Agreement 21-10817 A1. There is no General Fund impact with approval of the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Educational Development Center Agreement.