

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 19, 2023

CATEGORY: Consent Calendar {{item.number}}

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement with Shasta Community Health Center for tattoo removal services.

DEPARTMENT: Probation

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Tracie Neal, Chief Probation Officer, (530) 245-6200

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Tracie Neal, Chief Probation Officer

<u>Vote Required?</u>	<u>General Fund Impact?</u>
Simple Majority Vote	No Additional General Fund Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an agreement with Shasta Community Health Center, in an amount not to exceed \$151,333, for tattoo removal services for justice and system involved individuals to remove tattoo barriers to employment and/or tattoos related to being commercially sexually exploited for the period date of signing through October 31, 2028.

DISCUSSION

Visible tattoos can be a painful reminder of bad decisions, drug use, incarceration, antisocial behavior, and a life left behind. By removing them, people can erase daily reminders of darker past days, leaving room for a brighter future and a better version of themselves. We want to empower people who have had the courage to change and help them feel confident in their new path.

Tattoos have been an employment barrier for justice involved individuals who have committed to long-term behavioral change and a life free of criminal behavior. For individuals who have been sexually exploited, it is common for them to have been tattooed, which serves as a mark of ownership by the trafficker impacting their ability to recover from their trauma and be successful in life.

The Community Correction Partnership (CCP) has partnered with Shasta Community Health Center (SCHC) to develop a tattoo removal program to provide a safe and effective tattoo removal services to remove tattoo barriers to employment and/or tattoos related to being commercially sexually exploited. This program is included in the CCP Fiscal Year 2023-24 adopted budget. The program is for 5 years, and the funding will support the purchase of the laser tattoo removal machine and equipment, maintenance of the machine, training for SCHC staff, screening and consultation of referred individuals, aftercare services, and administrative costs.

The target population for referrals to the tattoo removal program are justice and system involved individuals who have tattoo barriers to employment and/or are a victim of commercial sexual exploitation. Participants must also demonstrate a commitment to change their lives for the better and are committed to the tattoo removal process. Those under the age of 18 must have a responsible adult who will be willing to support the youth during the tattoo removal process.

The tattoo removal services will be provided to those with the following criteria: tattoo(s) on the hands, neck, face; tattoo(s) given as a victim of human trafficking; hate symbol(s) or racist tattoos; and gang related tattoos. Other program requirements include an individual must be free of new criminal charges with no pending cases pending and clean and sober, free of alcohol and substance use at time of referral and while in the program.

After consultation, tattoo removal consists of an approximately 15-minute session per individual participant. Recovery time for a

participant, between each tattoo removal session, is 4 weeks to allow for healing between sessions. SCHC will perform tattoo removal services based on the number of referrals submitted and each half-day session will allow between 4 and 16 participants to receive tattoo removal services. SCHC plans to conduct one to two half-day sessions per month based on the demand for the service.

Outcome measures will be tracked and the CCP will review this program on an annual basis. Data collection will include: number of individual's referred and by what agency; type of tattoo(s) being removed; number of individuals who complete the program; number of individuals who gain employment; and recidivism rates related to tattoo removal.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to approve the agreement or could request changes to the terms and conditions of the agreement. Approval of this agreement is essential for justice involved individuals and sexually exploited victims to receive tattoo removal services that may not otherwise be obtainable or cost prohibitive.

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

Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 109) revenue will fund the tattoo removal program with no general fund impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Shasta Community Health Center Agreement