

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 17, 2023
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CATEGORY: Consent Calendar 7

SUBJECT: Approve a retroactive amendment to the agreement with Open Line Group Homes, Inc., for youth residential mental health services for eligible children which adds Corrective Action Plan language, allows the use of County's Electronic Health Record, updates payment rates, increases maximum compensation, and adds the HIPAA addendum.

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

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Miguel Rodriguez, Director of Mental Health, Behavioral Health & Social Services
(530) 225-5705

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Miguel Rodriguez, HHSA Branch Director

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

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a retroactive amendment, effective July 1, 2023, to the agreement with Open Line Group Homes, Inc., to provide youth residential specialty mental health services which allows the vendor's access to County Electronic Health Record, updates payment rates to match the State's new CalAIM requirements and increases compensation by \$475,000 for a new maximum compensation not to exceed \$925,000, for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

DISCUSSION

The proposed amendment will allow Open Line Group Homes, Inc., (Open Line) to increase youth residential mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible clients in Shasta County. Open Line offers a variety of mental health treatment services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in their youth residential program. Due to Assembly Bill 403 statutory changes there has been an increased focus on child welfare and juvenile probation placing at local facilities to ensure foster youth are placed in their county of jurisdiction. As a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program STRTP, Open Line serves foster youth identified as meeting that level of care at their residential facilities that are referred by the County. Assembly Bill 1299 statutory changes also requires the County to provide specialty mental health services when a foster youth has been presumptively transferred to Shasta by another county.

Residential services are provided to youth with serious mental health issues to reduce behaviors and symptoms resulting from a mental illness that can require acute psychiatric hospitalization and the need for highly structured and supervised placement. The goal of placement in a STRTP is to improve the youth's functioning such that the youth can move to a lower level of care when appropriate.

Medically necessary mental health services for eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries are considered an entitlement and are part of Shasta County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Mental Health Plan responsibility. Specifically, HHSA is responsible for determining medical necessity, authorizing, and paying for these services. Youth who are eligible for services through this contract include those who are placed with Open Line in out-of-home care by HHSA, the Probation Department, voluntarily by parents through the Adoption Assistance Program, or through presumptive transfer from another county. Progress for each individual is evaluated through quarterly reports on the frequency of identified behaviors that resulted in or places the youth at risk of a higher level of care, as well as tracking of progress toward individual treatment goals.

Per Shasta County Mental Health Plan 22-20136, no person shall be denied medically necessary covered specialty mental health service solely because of diagnosis, type of illness, or condition. Per Government Code Section 11135, no person on the basis of

sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or sexual orientation, may be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state.

Open Line has provided residential services, to Shasta County youth for many years. The proposed agreement contains specific requirements to ensure maximum access to services for Shasta County clients and their families, including children placed in foster care. The HHSA has oversight processes in place and has been satisfied with their performance. Continual performance monitoring includes evaluating client outcomes by the implementation of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool as well as progress towards individual treatment goals.

The amendment is retroactive due to the time needed to for all parties to negotiate the terms under the new payment reform implemented from the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) by the State and the late release of the State's payment reform rates.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to execute the amendment, defer consideration to a future date, or provide alternate direction to staff. If the Board chooses to not execute the amendment, youth may be placed in less desirable out-of-county placements, if any are available, and youth currently in placement at an Open Line group home may need to be moved to another contracted facility and services already provided by the group home would remain unpaid.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

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

FISCAL IMPACT

The maximum compensation amount of the proposed amendment is included in the Mental Health (BU 410) Fiscal Year 2023-24 Requested Budget. Youth residential mental health services are funded through a combination of federal Medicaid funds (approx. 50%) with a county match which is largely met through a combination of 1991 and 2011 realignment revenue.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: First Amendment