

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 17, 2023
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CATEGORY: Consent Calendar 8

SUBJECT: Approve a retroactive renewal agreement with Remi Vista, Inc., for youth residential mental health services and therapeutic behavioral services in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, and designate authority to terminate the agreement.

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

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Miguel Rodriguez, HHSA Branch Director

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

Take the following actions: (1) Approve a retroactive renewal agreement, effective July 1, 2023, with Remi Vista, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 to provide youth residential mental health services and therapeutic behavioral services for eligible children for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026; and (2) designate authority to the County Executive Officer or their designee to terminate this agreement, provided County Counsel concurs, and all other conditions are met.

DISCUSSION

This retroactive renewal agreement will allow Remi Vista, Inc., (Remi Vista) to continue to provide youth residential mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible clients, their family members and care providers in Shasta County during Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The Shasta County Mental Health Plan has a responsibility to provide mental health services to eligible Medi-Cal Beneficiaries. Resulting from a recent competitive procurement cycle for mental health services, the proposed agreement will allow Remi Vista to provide TBS to children, adolescents and young adults (up to 21 years of age) who fall within Shasta County’s eligible population. Remi Vista provides intensive one-on-one TBS that requires a flexible staffing capacity to meet the needs of clients referred to the service.

Remi Vista offers a variety of mental health treatment services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in their youth residential program. Due to AB403 statutory changes there has been an increased focus on local placements at the facility to ensure our foster youth are placed in their county of jurisdiction. Due to AB 1299 statutory changes there is a number of counties relinquishing the responsibility of specialty mental health services of their foster youth onto Shasta County via presumptive transfer.

Residential services provided are 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 these facilities 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. Youth who are eligible for services through this contract include those who are placed with Remi Vista 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.

Remi Vista has provided residential and specialty mental health services, including TBS, 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 agreement is retroactive due to the time needed to for all parties to negotiate the agreement 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.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board may choose not to approve this agreement, defer consideration to a future date, provide alternate direction to staff, or approve one or only part of the recommended actions. If the Board chooses to not execute the agreement, youth may be placed in less desirable out-of-county placements, if any are available, and youth currently at a Remi Vista facility may need to be moved to another location and services already provided by Remi Vista would remain unpaid.

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 maximum compensation amount of the proposed agreement is included in the Mental Health (BU 410) Fiscal Year 2023-24 Requested Budget. The agreement is fee-for-service and funds are only expended upon Shasta County youth or Presumptive Transfer youth placement in Remi Vista's residential mental health program. Therapeutic Behavioral Services and 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: Renewal Agreement