

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

BY: James Rydingsword
PHONE: (209) 966-2000

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

It is respectfully requested that your Board approve a contract with Behavioral Health and Molly Long, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) to provide counseling services to Mental Health clients with Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scores of 50 or above.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

See attached memo.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Please see attached.

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Board Memo – Page {1-2}
Source:		Contract for Services – Page {3-9}
Internal Transfer		Exhibit A – Page {10 -13}
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 10-46 Ord. No. _____
 Vote – Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 Approved
 () Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments:

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
 Deputy

CAO: [Signature]



**MARIPOSA COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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JAMES A. RYDINGSWORD, DIRECTOR

March 5, 2010

TO: Members; Board of Supervisors
Rick Benson, CAO
FROM: James Rydingsword *JR*
RE: Contract Independent Provider

Recommendation

It is respectfully requested that your Board approve 1.) The Human Services Department Behavioral Health Division to enter into a contract for services with Molly Long, LCSW to provide counseling services as an independent community contractor for Mental Health Clients who have Mariposa Medi-Cal and/or Medicare and who have a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score of 50 or above; 2.) approve a one-time cash incentive payment under Mental Health Services Act Workforce, Employment and Training funds of \$2,500.00 (Twenty-Five Hundred and no/100 Dollars) to assist independent contractors, such as Ms. Long, to establish a private practice in Mariposa County, a rural community.

Clients will be referred to independent community contractors after a.) an intake assessment has been completed by Behavioral Services staff and b.) Human Services Social Work Supervisor overseeing clinical staff has made a determination that the referral to an independent community contractor is appropriate. All independent community contractors will work under the guidelines established by the Mental Health Services contract currently in effect for the Human Services Department with the State Department of Mental Health as outlined in Exhibit A of the contract.

Background/Current Situation

In 2008 the Mariposa County Mental Health Board recommended that the Human Services Department consider contracting out to independent counselors Mental Health clients who could benefit from a community counseling setting based on their Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) ratings. The Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) is a numeric scale (0 through 100) used by mental health clinicians and physicians to subjectively rate the social, occupational, and psychological functioning of adults, e.g., how well or adaptively one is meeting various problems-in-living. Under these contracts the staff of Behavioral Health in the Human Services Department can refer those clients with a GAF rating of 51-100 to community counselors. A GAF rating of 51-100 indicates clients functioning from moderate symptoms to superior functioning. Internally, we call this group the GAF 50+ population.

March 5, 2010

The purpose behind this recommendation from the Mental Health Board was to shift a less restrictive caseload from county staff to independent community counselors. Under an independent contract a community counselor is able to provide billable Medi-Cal and/or Medicare services and free up funding within the Department that can then be directed to more complex cases and, in the process, help reduce waiting lists for services from the Department in Behavioral Services.

Under the Mental Health Services Act Workforce Education and Training program the Department submitted a plan that was approved by your Board on September 8, 2009 (res 09-444). Included in the plan is a component to use this Mental Health Services Act fund to provide cash incentives in an effort to recruit local clinicians who would be interested in seeing the GAF 50+ population. That plan has now been approved by the State and the funds are in the accounts of the Human Services Department.

Financial

These contract service providers would be cost neutral to Mariposa County in that they would generate offsetting revenue through allowable Medi-Cal and/or Medicare billable services. As private contractors, independent community contractors will be responsible to provide for all of their own costs. Independent community contractors will also be able to provide services to private clients and will be responsible to set up a billing and payment system separate from the Medi-Cal and Medicare GAF 50+ population. If this approach to independent counseling is effective it will be sustained, in the long term, by the ability of independent community contractors to provide services that are billable under Medi-Cal and/or Medicare. Further, the Department estimates that county staff will be able to increase revenue to the Department through increased billing, by billing at higher rates for more complex cases and by increasing the frequency of visits by clients in the GAF 1-50 range. As such, there is no anticipated current or future impact to the general fund.