



# Health & Human Services Agency

## COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** April 1, 2025

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Natalie Bolin, DSW, LCSW    PHONE: 559-624-8000

**SUBJECT:** Approve an agreement with BHC Sierra Vista Hospital, Inc.

### **REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an agreement with BHC Sierra Vista Hospital, Inc., for the provision of short-term, inpatient psychiatric services, in an amount not to exceed \$800,000, retroactive from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. This agreement is retroactive due to program managers finalizing the services that are to be provided by the vendor, making it impracticable for the Board to take action prior to July 1, 2024.
2. Find that the Board had the authority to enter into the agreement as of July 1, 2024, and that it was in the County's best interest to enter into the agreement on that date.
3. Authorize the Chair to sign the agreement.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency's (HHSA) Behavioral Health Branch contracts with BHC Sierra Vista Hospital, Inc. (BHCSV) in Sacramento, California, for the provision of 24-hour short-term medically necessary acute psychiatric inpatient care to Tulare County residents as described in California Welfare and Institutions Code section 5001.

Services provided by BHCSV include intake assessment, skilled nursing, and mental health rehabilitation counseling in an environment that is conducive to the treatment of mentally disabled persons. These services are designed for consumers who require continuous 24-hour supervision and are expected to benefit from organized therapeutic

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treatment modalities that promote daily living skills. Therapeutic treatment modalities may include behavioral interventions, quality of life skills, pre-vocational preparation, and alternative placement planning. BHCSV's treatment program is designed to improve the consumers' current mental status and prevent any further deterioration of the consumer's functioning. It is estimated that 30 unduplicated consumers will be provided services through this proposed agreement per Fiscal Year.

This agreement did not go through the Request for Proposal process because, per Welfare and Institutions Code section 5600, counties are mandated to pay for acute psychiatric inpatient hospital services provided in Institutions for Mental Diseases for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, ages 12.5 to 21, and adults 22 to 64 years of age. This agreement fulfills this mandate by providing a fixed bundled rate for Tulare County consumers who receive mandated services at BHCSV.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The cost associated with this agreement is in an amount not to exceed \$800,000. \$400,000 has been included in HHSA's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, and \$400,000 will be included in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026. The average estimated cost per consumer is \$13,000. The estimated amount is subject to change based on actual utilization. This agreement is funded with Realignment revenue. There is no additional net County cost to the General Fund.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative that encourages the innovative provision of quality supportive services for at-risk adults, youth, and children in state and federally-mandated programs. This agreement increases the ability to fulfill that obligation by providing access to 24-hour, short-term, medically necessary, acute psychiatric inpatient care.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

/s/ Natalie Bolin

Natalie Bolin, DSW, LCSW  
Director of Behavioral Health

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Agreement