



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: May 9, 2023

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	Yes
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Natalie Bolin PHONE: 559-624-8000

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement with the Department of State Hospitals

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve implementation of the Early Access and Stabilization Services (EASS) program based on a Letter of Intent from the Department of State Hospitals for an allocation to cover program costs.
2. Approve an agreement with the Department of State Hospitals for Early Access and Stabilization Services (EASS) for substantive treatment services for felony incompetent to stand trial inmates in an amount not to exceed \$9,271,470 retroactive from April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2025. Due to the extended contract processing time with the State, it is impracticable for the Board to take action prior to April 17, 2023.
3. Find that the Board had the authority to enter into the agreement with the Department of State Hospitals on April 17, 2023, and it was in the County's best interest to approve the agreement on that date.
4. Approve the necessary budget adjustments per the attached AUD 308 forms (4/5th vote required).
5. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign one (1) copy of the agreement after review and approval as to form by County Counsel.
6. Direct HHSA staff to provide a fully executed copy of the finalized agreement to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

On January 25, 2023, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Branch received notification from the State of California, Department of State Hospitals (DSH) of their intent to contract with HHSA for use and delivery of

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Early Access and Stabilization Services (EASS) to facilitate early access to treatment for inmates Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) charged with a felony.

HHSA would subcontract the services to Precision to support inmates awaiting admission to a DSH program while housed in a county jail. Services will support mental health treatment, access to medication upon a commitment to DSH, and provide basic competency education before admission to a DSH program or until the restoration of competency. Services will include a medication stabilization team comprised of a competency trainer for the clinical and competency training, a psychologist for competency assessment and report writing, an administrative position for tracking and data, and psychiatry support for medication management and Administrative Law Judge hearings. The funding will also support the establishment of a new EASS unit within the Sheriff's Department.

HHSA and DSH have been in negotiations since January, and through the contract negotiation process, HHSA and DSH have agreed on the scope of work and funding allocation of \$9,271,470 for the period of April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2025. DSH desires to start the program on April 15 and begin patient admissions on April 17, 2023. However, due to state contract processing times, HHSA is advised that the DSH will not have the final agreement package ready for signature until early June. The Exhibits have been reviewed by County Counsel, and HHSA does not expect any changes to the substantive terms of the agreement and is requesting authority for the Chair to sign the agreement once the final package is received, pending County Counsel approval as to form. HHSA plans for \$1,763,206 of services and funding from April 17, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and a delay in implementing the program would reduce the funding available from the state.

Contract Period: April 17, 2023 to June 30, 2025			
EASS Program			
Categories	FY 2022-23 2.5-Month Total	FY 2023-24 12-Month Total (366 Days)	FY 2024-25 12-Month Total (365 Days)
Program Implementation Costs	\$1,098,314		
Ongoing Costs		\$828,095	\$852,158
Staffing Costs	\$281,558	\$1,392,024	\$1,435,988
Pharmaceuticals	\$300,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Deputy Costs	\$83,333	\$400,000	\$400,000
Fiscal Year Totals:	\$1,763,206	\$3,720,119	\$3,788,145
Total Contract Value	\$9,271,470		

The agreement contains the following deviations from the County boilerplate: (1) The County signs first; (2) The agreement contains a mutual indemnity provision; (3) The State can terminate the agreement immediately for cause.

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FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$9,271,470 is for the period of April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2025. The Department of State Hospitals funds this allocation. The purpose of the attached AUD 308 is to establish the program's budget for both HHSA and the Sheriff and incorporate the funding into the County's Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget in the amount of \$1,763,206. The program's expenses and revenues will be budgeted in HHSA's budget unit 001-142-3403. There is no net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes a Safety and Security Initiative to promote management strategies that ensure the safety of the county population and their well-being.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/Natalie Bolin

Natalie Bolin, DSW

Director of Mental Health

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Attachment A – Draft Scope of Work

Attachment B – Letter of Intent

Attachment C – AUD 308 HHSA

Attachment D – AUD 308 Sheriff's Office