



# 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:** March 7, 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	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

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

**SUBJECT:** Approve an agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority to continue participating in the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, retroactive from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. This agreement is retroactive due to the timing in obtaining the final agreement from California Mental Health Services Authority; making it impractical for the Board to take action prior to January 1, 2023.
2. Find that the Board has the authority to approve the agreement as of January 1, 2023, and that it was in the County's best interest to approve the agreement on that date.
3. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign one (1) copy of the agreement.

**SUMMARY:**

On September 25, 2020, Senate Bill 803, Chapter 150, was approved by Governor Newsom. It requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by July 1, 2022, to develop statewide requirements for counties to use in the development of Medi-Cal certification programs of Peer Support Specialists. Peer Support Specialists are individuals who self-identify as having lived experience with the recovery process from mental illness, substance use disorder, or both.

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) has developed and implemented a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Program that is responsive to the needs

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of California's population under the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems in accordance with DHCS Behavioral Health Information Notice 21-041 and Senate Bill 803.

Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Mental Health Branch entered into Agreement No. 30625 on May 10, 2022 when the Board of Supervisors approved and signed Resolution No. 2022-0385 to participate in the CalMHSA Peer Support Specialist program. Agreement No. 30625 expired on December 31, 2022, and HHSA would like to renew an agreement with CalMHSA. Through this agreement, CalMHSA will implement and administer all components of the Peer Support Specialist Certification program on behalf of HHSA, including required data collection and submission to DHCS, certification of peers, exam administration, investigations, approvals, auditing, and monitoring of training vendors. HHSA recognizes the vital role that peer support specialists play in the behavioral health system and recognizes that peers have long acted as part of the prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery process for individuals living with mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUDs). This participation agreement will benefit HHSA by alleviating the administrative burden required in implementing all the Peer Support Specialist Certification program components.

The following terms deviate substantively from the standard County boilerplate: 1) the County must sign first; 2) CalMHSA's liability under the agreement is limited to the amount of funds the County is providing; and 3) the County agrees to defend and indemnify CalMHSA for any claims resulting from the County's provision of mental health services.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The budgeted cost associated with this agreement are included in the HHSA 001-142-3333 budget, line 7073 Training, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. This agreement is paid through the Mental Health Services Act, Workforce Education, and Training funding. 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 Organizational Performance initiative to continuously improve organizational effectiveness and fiscal stability. This agreement increases the ability to fulfill that obligation by developing and attracting a broad range of mental health staff.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

/s/ Natalie Bolin  
Natalie Bolin  
Director of Mental Health

Cc: County Administrative Office

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Attachments: Agreement