

BACKGROUND:

Support Services:

The Department of Health Services contracts with a variety of vendors to support the delivery of client and program related services. Following is a description of proposed service contracts:

- ***ECHO Management Group (\$305,000)*** for transactional data systems to perform client billing and accounting functions. This system is used to submit claims to Medi-Cal and Medicare, and perform related accounting and reporting functions. As is standard with software systems, ongoing maintenance, support and upgrades are necessary to preserve its integrity and reliability. The Department is in the process of selecting the next transactional data systems supplier in a manner consistent with County procurement policy and will return to the Board for approval once the selection process is completed.
- ***Securitas (\$204,000)*** provides security services to ensure the safety of clients and staff in the Department's Psychiatric Emergency Services unit and in the Chanate Hall facility. In June 2008, based on a competitive selection process conducted by the General Services Department, Securitas was selected to supply security services to the Department of Health Services for a two-year period with options to extend for up to three years. The Department proposes an amendment to increase the current contract by \$204,000 for FY 09-10 services.
- ***Redwood Toxicology (\$98,820)*** conducts a portion of the drug testing services for AODS and Mental Health divisions. Redwood Toxicology guarantees test results within 24 hours, a service crucial to the timely provision of AODS and mental health client services. The Department will conduct a competitive process for this contract for FY 10-11.
- ***Value Options (\$25,000)*** serves the needs of foster and adopted children who are Sonoma County Medi-Cal beneficiaries residing outside the County. They arrange for specialty mental health services through a network of licensed clinicians.
- ***Hearing officers (\$4,000)*** to conduct hearings to determine if a mental health client will be placed on an involuntary 14-day hold (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5256.1).
- ***Miller, Brown, and Dannis (\$5,500)*** provides legal services specializing in matters related to mental health services for eligible special education pupils.
- ***Interpreters (\$14,400)*** to assist Mental Health Division staff in psychiatric crisis interventions when other forms of interpretation (i.e. telephonic) are impractical or inappropriate.
- ***Caminar Software (\$5,250)*** maintains and supports database software used to gather, tabulate, and produce state-mandated reports on outcomes of the Mental Health Services Act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 09-10 Proposed Budget includes appropriations of \$661,970 for support services agreements as detailed above. These contracts are funded by MHSA (\$71,600), Realignment (\$520,250), and a combination of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) funds, Drug Court funds, and AODS client fees (\$70,120). There is no contribution from the General Fund for these services.

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: None.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

BACKGROUND: (continued)

Temporary Physician Services:

The Department is requesting authority to contract for temporary physician services. These contracts allow the Department to maintain a robust pool of psychiatrists qualified to provide services in the event of a physician shortage. Physician shortages have increased with the capacity of competing entities such as state prison and hospital systems to offer psychiatrists premium pay and benefits.

The Department currently contracts with locum tenens agencies, physicians, and other providers as needed. These contracts do not specify an individual maximum fiscal obligation which allows the Department maximum flexibility to meet client needs (total \$680,767). Proposed temporary service providers include:

Staff Care, Inc.	Locum Tenens Agency
Global Staffing Agency	Locum Tenens Agency
LocumTenens.com	Locum Tenens Agency
Robert Hildreth, MD	Psychiatrist
Guy Smyth, MD	Psychiatrist

FISCAL IMPACT:

As staff vacancies occur, salary savings are used to fund temporary physician services. Staff is funded by a combination of Medi-Cal, Federal Financial Participation (FFP), Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), MHSA and Realignment. There are no contributions from the General Fund.

Some of these funds have been identified in the May revise of the state budget for reduction or deletion. The Department will return to the Board with updated state funding information as it becomes available.