MEETING: February 28, 2012

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Rydingsword, Human Services Director

RE: Luker Contract

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Contract for Services with LuEllen Luker, 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 and authorize the Chairman of the Supervisors to sign the Contract; Approve a one-time cash incentive payment of $2,500 to assist independent contractors in establishing a private practice in Mariposa County.

Clients will be referred to independent contractors after a) an intake assessment has been completed by Behavioral Health Services staff and b) the Behavioral Health Social Work Supervisor overseeing clinical staff has made a determination that the referral to an independent contractor is appropriate. It is further recommended that your Board approve a one-time payment, not to exceed $2,500.00 (Twenty-Five Hundred and no/100 Dollars) to assist Ms. Luker set up a counseling office in the community. Such payments shall be restricted to first month’s rent and security deposit and the one-time costs necessary to establish utility service to the office and will be paid from the Mental Health Services Act Workforce, Education, and Training funds recently approved for Mariposa County by the State Department of Mental Health. Referrals to this contract will be determined by the Human Services Social Work Supervisor overseeing clinical staff once an intake assessment has been completed by Behavioral Services staff. All independent contractors will work under the guidelines established by the Mental Health Services Contract currently in effect between the Human Services Department and the State Department of Mental Health as outlined in Exhibit A of that contract.

In 2008 the Mariposa County Mental Health Board recommended that the Human Services Department consider contracting out to independent counselors those mental health clients who could benefit from a community counseling setting based on their Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) ratings. The 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, i.e.: how well or adaptively one is meeting various problems-in-living. Under these
guidelines, the staff of Mariposa County Behavioral Health (MCBH) can refer those clients to an independent contractor. The clients that are to be referred to the MCBH provider shall have a GAF score that is mutually agreed upon by MCBH and the MCBH independent provider. This eligibility is to be decided on a case by case basis.

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

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the contract or the one-time incentive. The waiting list for mental health services would most likely increase and clients would wait longer for services.

FISCAL IMPACT:
These contract service providers are cost-neutral to Mariposa County because they generate offsetting revenue through the Medi-Cal billing process. These independent contractors are responsible to provide for their own costs. Independent contractors are also able to provide services to private clients for whom they will be responsible to set up a billing and payment system separate from the Medi-Cal population. The Department estimates that county staff will be able to increase revenue to the Department though increased billing, by billing at higher rates for more complex cases, and by increasing the frequency of visits by other clients; therefore, there is no anticipated current or future impact to the county general fund. Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes Amount in Budget: $60,000

ATTACHMENTS:
GAF Contract 2012 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jim Allen, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Lyle Turpin, District II Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen