RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: It is respectfully requested that the Board of Supervisors: (1) approve a Mariposa County Behavioral Health contract with Edith Ankersmit, LCSW, to provide counseling services as an independent community contractor for mental health clients who have Mariposa County Medi-Cal and/or Medicare and who have a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score of 50 or above and (2) sign the contract. The contract is not to exceed $80,000.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

See Attached

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

See Attached

Financial Impact? (✓) Yes (☐) No  Current FY Cost: $  
Budgeted In Current FY? (✓) Yes (☐) No  (☐) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $  
Additional Funding Needed: $  
Source:  
Internal Transfer  
Unanticipated Revenue  
Transfer Between Funds  
Contingency  
(☐) General (☐) Other

List Attachments, number pages consecutively

Page 1-2 Board Memo
Page 3-9 Contract
Page 10-13 Exhibit A

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 372  Ord. No.  
Vote – Ayes: 4  Noes:  
Absent:  
Approved  
(☐) Minute Order Attached  (☐) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date:  
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California
By:  
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
(✓) Requested Action Recommended  
☐ No Opinion
Comments:  

CAO:  

Revised Dec. 2002
July 27, 2010

TO: Members; Board of Supervisors, Rick Benson, CAO
FROM: James Rydingsword
RE: Community provider contract

Recommendation

It is respectfully requested that the Board of Supervisors: (1) approve a Mariposa County Behavioral Health contract with Edith Ankersmit, LCSW to provide counseling services as an independent community contractor for mental health clients who have Mariposa County Medi-Cal and/or Medicare and who have a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score of 50 or above and (2) sign the contract. The contract is not to exceed $80,000.

Background/Current Situation

Clients will be referred to independent community 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 community contractor is appropriate. All independent community 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 form 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 contracts, the staff of Behavioral Health can refer those clients with a GAF rating of 51-100 to community counselors. A GAF rating of 51-100 indicates clients functioning from moderate symptoms to superior functioning. Internally, we call this group the GAF 50+

The purpose behind this recommendation from the Mental Health Board was to shift a less restrictive caseload from county staff to independent community counselors. Under an independent contract, a community counselor is able to provide billable Medi-Cal and/or Medicare 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.

Financial

These contract service providers are cost-neutral to Mariposa County because they generate offsetting revenue through the Medi-Cal and/or Medicare billing process. These independent community contractors are responsible to provide for their own costs. Independent community
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 and Medicare GAF 50+ 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 clients in the lower GAF 1-50 range; therefore, there is no anticipated current or future impact to the county general fund.