

DEPARTMENT: Human Services/BHRS

BY: James A. Rydingsword

PHONE: 966-2000

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: It is respectfully requested that your Board (1) approve Behavioral Health to enter into a contract for services with Lori Ritter, Ph.D. to provide counseling services as an independent community contractor for Mental Health Clients who have Medi-Cal and/or Medicare and who have been placed in the Sierra Quest Academy and (2) sign the contract. The contract is not to exceed \$50,000.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

See Attached

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

See Attached

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes (X) No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Page 1-2 Board Memo
Source:		Pages 3-9 Contract
Internal Transfer _____		Page 10-13 Exhibit A
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: P. 411 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 Approved
 () Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

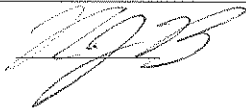
The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

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: 



MARIPOSA COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT


P.O. Box 99 • Mariposa, CA 95338 • (209) 966-2000 • Fax (209) 966-8251

□ Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

JAMES A. RYDINGSWORD, DIRECTOR



August 24, 2010

TO: Members; Board of Supervisors
Rick Benson, CAO
FROM: James Rydingsword 
RE: Contract clinical staff

Recommendation

It is respectfully requested that your Board approve Behavioral Health to enter into a contract for services with Lorie Ritter PhD to provide counseling services as an independent community contractor for Mental Health Clients who have MediCal and/or Medicare and who have been placed in the Sierra Quest Academy. It is further recommended that your Board approve a one-time payment, not to exceed \$2500.00 (Twenty-Five Hundred and no/100 Dollars) to assist Mrs. Ritter in setting up an office at the Sierra Quest Academy. Such payments shall be restricted to the purchase of equipment, security for medical records and other one-time costs necessary to establish her practice at the Academy 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. Clients affected by this contract will be determined by and limited to those referred to and made residents of the Sierra Quest Academy. The charts will be kept at the Academy or on the Anasazi Computer system and monitored by the Human Services Social Work Supervisor who currently oversees clinical staff at Mariposa County Behavioral Health. Approval of this contract will allow Mrs. Ritter to set up and provide services to clients placed in the Sierra Quest Academy group home in Mariposa County. Mrs. Ritter will work under the guidelines established by the Mental Health Services contract currently in effect for the Human Services Department with the State Department of Mental Health as outlined in Attachment A of the contact with Mrs. Ritter.

Background/Current Situation

In 2008 the Mariposa County Mental Health Board recommended that the Human Services Department consider contracting out to independent counselors Mental Health clients who could benefit from a community counseling setting. Many of the Adolescent clients placed in the Sierra Quest Academy, which is a boys group home in Mariposa County, will require some form of counseling to stabilize them and prepare them to return to their own communities better prepared to take on life's challenges.

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 and free up funding within the Department that can then be directed to more complex cases and, in the process, help reduce waiting lists for services from the Department in Behavioral Services.

Under the Mental Health Services Act Workforce Education and Training program the Department submitted a plan that was approved by your Board on September 8, 2009 (res 09-444). Included in the plan is a component to use this Mental Health Services Act fund to

provide initial costs of setting up a business in the community in an effort to recruit local clinicians who would be interested in seeing the higher functioning clients. That plan has now been approved by the State and the funds are in the accounts of the Human Services Department.

Financial

These contract service providers would be cost neutral to Mariposa County in that they would generate offsetting revenue through allowable Medi-Cal and/or Medicare billable services. As private contractors independent community contractors will be responsible to provide for all of their own costs after receiving a Mental Health Services Act (Stipend or Grant) for the costs of setting up a business. Since Mrs. Ritter will only provide services to the residents of the Sierra Quest Academy she does not plan to see private pay clients from the community. The clients that Ms. Ritter sees will be monitored by this department to ensure that medical necessity is met and that all paperwork is in place. If this approach to independent counseling is effective it will be sustained, in the long term, by the ability of independent community contractors to provide services that are billable under Medi-Cal and/or Medicare. As such, there is no anticipated current or future impact to the general fund.