



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 13, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
Subject: Contract: Traditions Behavioral Health for Psychiatry Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract with vendor Traditions Behavioral Health to provide psychiatry services through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$1,379,400.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the scope of work in the amount of \$1,379,400 will be provided from the Medi-Cal Systemwide Fund #316.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Contracting with a psychiatry services provider will allow the Department of Health, Housing, and Community Services' Mental Health Division (HHCS/MH) to provide uninterrupted services, and in particular, medication. The City has experienced great difficulty in filling vacant positions for qualified staff who can prescribe psychiatric medications. Due to a variety of factors, including the Medi-Cal expansion through the Affordable Care Act, an existing shortage of psychiatrists in the region has been greatly exacerbated. HHCS/MH would greatly prefer to have career staff working in the clinic, and at this time there are multiple vacancies for psychiatrists in the Mental Health Division.

BACKGROUND

HHCS/MH has contracted for psychiatry services in the past. Traditions Behavioral Health is also a vendor under contract with Napa County. HHCS/MH was able to draw on the competitive procurement process that Napa County did in order to develop this proposal, expediting the process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, sustainability opportunities, or climate impacts associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Traditions Behavioral Health offers locums tenens that provide psychiatry services to Med-Cal, uninsured, disenfranchised, and under-served populations. These services are necessary for the provision of mental health treatment provided by the City, and cannot currently be provided at a sufficient level by career staff due to ongoing vacancies in the Psychiatrist classification. These services will ensure the continued availability of medication prescription and monitoring. These services will only be utilized during staff shortages and are not a replacement of permanent staffing.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Instead of drawing on Napa County's RFP for contracted services, the City could issue its own RFP to identify a vendor. Staff are not recommending this because of the urgent need to provide services. Staff did not identify another action which is consistent with the HHCS/MH's need to ensure continued availability of medication prescription and monitoring services.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT WITH TRADITIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR PSYCHIATRY
SERVICES

WHEREAS, Traditions Behavioral Health has become an essential provider to multiple California municipalities for psychiatry services for mental health clients; and

WHEREAS, Traditions Behavioral Health offers psychiatry services, provided by licensed psychiatrists, to Medi-Cal, uninsured, disenfranchised, and under-served populations; and

WHEREAS, Traditions Behavioral Health's services support mental health goals of improving the health and well-being of the community during periods of staff shortages; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2022, Traditions Behavioral Health submitted a proposal in response to a Request for Proposals from Napa County, outlining psychiatry services they could provide in a cost efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the current budget year in ERMA GL Code 316-51-503-520-0000-000-451-612410-.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Traditions Behavioral Health for psychiatry services through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$1,379,400. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

