



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 13, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
 Subject: Contract: Berkeley Unified School District for Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator at Berkeley High School

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) for a Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator at Berkeley High School (BHS) for a total contract limit of \$350,000 for the period beginning June 26, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total not-to-exceed amount of this contract will be \$350,000. Funds for the scope of work in the amount of \$350,000 will be provided by General Fund (Fund 011). This funding was included in a budget referral approved by City Council on May 31, 2022. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and FY 2024 approved budgets.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The mental health crisis among youth nationwide has increased dramatically in recent years. In May 2022, the suicide of a BHS student who had been struggling with mental health issues revealed the extent of Berkeley's local mental health crisis. This tragic event also shed light on the ongoing insufficient mental health services and training available at BHS.

On May 31, 2022, Berkeley City Council, in consultation with the Berkeley Department of Health, Housing and Community Services (HHCS), approved funding for an additional position to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of students at BHS.

BACKGROUND

Over the past several months, HHCS has worked closely with BHS's Vice Principal (VP) of Culture and Climate to root this project in strong BUSD-HHCS collaboration. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator will be hired by BUSD under the supervision of the BHS VP of Culture and Climate, who will work in partnership with the BHS Health Center's Mental Health Program Supervisor.

The VP of Culture and Climate is leading efforts to establish a new Wellness Center at BHS, scheduled to open at the start of the 2023-24 school year. The Center will provide a safe, welcoming space where BHS students can access a host of behavioral health and resilience-building activities and services. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator will have a lead role in launching and developing the Wellness Center and in establishing and coordinating the continuum of services and activities needed to support students, ranging from prevention to early intervention to crisis management.

With the opening of the Wellness Center, the partnership of the City's BHS Health Center, and the leadership of the VP of Culture and Climate, the City-funded Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator will be in a strong position to expand and coordinate resources and services for BHS students.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this project was approved by City Council on May 31, 2022. The scope of this contract reflects a shared City of Berkeley-BUSD vision for strengthening the mental health and wellbeing of BHS students. BUSD is investing significantly in this project through the establishment of a new BHS Wellness Center and a new Mental Health Counselor for BHS. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator position will complement BHS's plans and advance Berkeley City Council's intention to improve and expand mental health services for BHS students.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff explored the possibility of making the position an HHCS employee, but ultimately determined that the most effective approach would be to establish a new City-funded Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator position within BUSD. As a BUSD employee, the position will have better access to and be better able to build trusting working relationships with students, families, and staff.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Nina Goldman, Senior Management Analyst, HHCS, 510.981.5420

#### Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2022, City Council approved a Budget Referral: Fund Mental Health Wellness Support and Services Coordinator at the Berkeley High School Health Center; and

WHEREAS, the approved Budget Referral allocated funding not to exceed \$350,000 for FY 2023 and FY 2024 to support this position; and

WHEREAS, working in partnership with HHCS, Berkeley Unified School District has established a new position, Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, at Berkeley High School, to strengthen, expand, and coordinate services and resources that promote student mental health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District has been a trusted partner in the implementation of a variety of programs in collaboration with the City; and

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$350,000 are available for this contract in the amount of \$175,000 in FY 2023 and \$175,000 FY 2024 in General Fund (Fund 011).

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 with the Berkeley Unified School District for a Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator position at Berkeley High School through June 30, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$350,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments shall be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

