



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 14, 2020

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 No. 10209 Amendment: Bay Area Hearing Voices Network for  
 Hearing Voices Support Groups

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an amendment to Contract No. 10209 and any amendments with vendor Bay Area Hearing Voices Network (BAHVN) to provide Hearing Voices Support Groups through June 30, 2021, increasing the amount of the contract by \$34,736 for a total not to exceed amount of \$103,178.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the additional scope of work in the amount of \$34,736 will be provided from ERMA GL Code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On February 2, 2016 Berkeley Mental Health (BMH) entered into Contract No. 10209 with BAHVN to provide support groups to community members who hear voices, see visions, and experience other forms of extraordinary perception. Community input informed the decision to partner with BAHVN, as stakeholders expressed concern that they or those they loved were unable to have their needs met by the existing programs in place at the time. On December 3, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,193-N.S. City Council authorized the City Manager to amend that contract to expand the scope of services to include both a new Youth support group and a Family Members/Caregivers support group. The purpose of the Youth group is to support young people who hear, see, or sense things others don't, by providing better information, advice, and support for participants. The Family Members/Caregivers group helps improve relationships and provides supports on better ways to communicate and respond about their own experiences which often include fears, anxieties, and confusions about what their loved ones are going through. The groups have been well-received by the community and are providing a service that was previously lacking. This amendment will ensure that the vendor can continue offering these groups for the next fiscal year. Recently, after the shelter-in-place was ordered as a result of COVID-19, BAHVN adjusted their work and began offering their meetings over the Zoom platform, and will continue to offer

groups in this manner as needed, allowing those who benefit from this service to maintain a sense of community and engage with others who have similar experiences.

#### BACKGROUND

BMH has partnered with BAHVN since 2016 to provide Hearing Voices Support Groups to the community. BAHVN has proven an effective vendor for this service, and continuing this partnership will provide continuity to consumers and ensure support for community members who experience extraordinary perception.

The State of California MHSAs provide funding for local mental health services and supports. City of Berkeley MHSAs Three Year Program and Expenditure Plans (Three Year Plans) and Annual Updates, details the uses of local MHSAs funds. Development of local MHSAs Three Year Plans and Annual Updates require community program planning, writing a draft plan, providing a 30-day public review, and conducting a public hearing at the Mental Health Commission.

The development of the MHSAs FY20/21 – 22/23 Three Year Plan is currently underway and will be on the City Council Agenda in October 2020. The proposed Three Year Plan will include continued funding to BAHVN for Hearing Voices Support Groups.

Given unforeseen delays due to Covid-19, that have occurred (and may likely continue to occur in the near future), we are requesting the approval of these contract amendments prior to the approval of the MHSAs FY20/21 – 22/23 Three Year Plan to prevent disruption to these important services and delays in paying contractors. This will assist Contractors who may be experiencing financial hardships during this time as a result of Covid-19. Funding for these services and supports has been included in the FY21 budget.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the action recommended in this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

BAHVN had demonstrated capacity and specialized practices in administering Hearing Voices Support Groups, providing an enhanced level of service to consumers.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

As an alternative action, Council could instead direct staff to circulate a formal RFP to competitively solicit a different vendor, or to not fund this service altogether.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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Hearing Voices Support Groups

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Attachments:  
1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 10209 AMENDMENT: BAY AREA HEARING VOICES NETWORK  
FOR HEARING VOICES SUPPORT GROUPS

WHEREAS, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds are allocated to mental health jurisdictions across the state for the purposes of transforming the mental health system into one that is consumer and family driven, culturally competent, wellness and recovery oriented, includes community collaboration, and implements integrated services; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,033-N.S., City Council authorized the City Manager to approve the MHSA Plan FY2019-2020 Annual Update; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,193-N.S., City Council authorized the City Manager to amend Contract No. 10209C for an expenditure limit not to exceed \$68,442; and

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$34,736 are available in the current budget year in ERMA GL Code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 10209 with the Bay Area Hearing Voices Network for Hearing Voices Support Groups through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$103,178. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.