



Agenda Date: 1/8/2008
Agenda Placement: 6B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Agreement with Traditions Psychology Group, Inc, dba Traditions Behavioral Health

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Traditions Psychology Group, Inc., dba Traditions Behavioral Health, for a maximum of \$800,000 for the term January 8, 2008 through June 30, 2008 with a provision for automatic annual renewal to provide contract psychiatric services for the County's Mental Health Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County is obligated to make available psychiatric services to children and adults in accordance with the terms of the County's agreement with the State Department of Mental Health. However, the County has had difficulties recruiting and retaining sufficient psychiatric staff. Approval of the recommended agreement will allow Traditions Psychology Group, Inc., dba Traditions Behavioral Health, to provide contract psychiatric services in the form of a Psychiatric Medical Director and at least one child or adult psychiatrist on an as-needed basis to assist in meeting the psychiatric needs of persons being served. Additional psychiatric staff may be provided if needed, up to the contract maximum of \$800,000 per fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Mental Health
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Approval of the requested action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to have an agreement with this particular provider. However, the County receives

funding and is under contract with the State to provide an array of community mental health services. Additionally, the County is mandated to provide necessary psychiatric services to students with an Individualized Education Plan requiring those services, pursuant to AB 3632. Approval of the requested action will allow the County to continue providing these mandated services while a number of staff psychiatrist positions are vacant.

- Is the general fund affected? Yes
- Future fiscal impact: Although the contract terminates on June 30, 2008, it contains a provision for automatic annual renewal, which allows the County the option of continuing the services into the following fiscal year. Appropriations for future fiscal years will be budgeted accordingly.
- Consequences if not approved: If the recommended agreement is not approved, the County would be at risk of non-compliance with requirements to provide medically necessary psychiatric services for Medi-Cal eligible clients and students requiring mandated AB 3632 mental health services. The Mental Health Division has frequently utilized contracts for psychiatric services to cover for vacant staff psychiatrist positions.
- Additional Information: The cost of this agreement will be funded by Medicare and Medi-Cal billing revenues, Realignment, and County General Funds appropriated for psychiatrists in the Mental Health budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Traditions Psychology Group, Inc., dba Traditions Behavioral Health (Traditions), is the largest provider of medical psychiatric services in California, employing psychiatrists who are out-sourced to serve institutional and community-based programs. A number of counties, including Sonoma and San Francisco, have contracted with Traditions for psychiatrists to serve in county-operated clinics. This vendor was selected for the services contract under consideration today based on the recommendation of these counties and the vendor's reputation in the State.

Approval of the recommended agreement will enable Traditions, in consultation with the County's Mental Health Director, to provide personnel to cover an average of 40 hours per week of contract psychiatric services. Traditions will employ only professionally licensed staff to provide services to clients of the Children's Behavioral Health program and the Adult Mental Health program on the HHSA campus, and oversee compliance with community standards of care, clinical practices and regulatory requirements. The contractor will provide these services in the form of a Psychiatric Medical Director and at least one child or adult psychiatrist on an as-needed basis in the absence of a full complement of County staff psychiatrists. The Psychiatric Medical Director will provide administrative, consultative, and psychiatric services, including diagnosis, treatment and prescribing of medications as appropriate. The Psychiatric Medical Director will also participate in the formulation of policies and procedures and oversee quality assurance issues related to medical/psychiatric services. Traditions may also provide additional staff psychiatrists, if needed, up to the contract maximum of \$800,000 per fiscal year. All

payments to be made to the contractor under the agreement will be only for services actually provided. If, however, a Traditions employee is hired into a County staff position, the County will have to pay Traditions a placement fee of \$37,000.

Also included as part of today's recommended agreement is a Business Associate Agreement setting forth the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) regulations to which the contractor is subject. This latter agreement provides the County with assurances that the contractor will comply with any and all HIPAA requirements.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita