



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/19/2018

Agenda Placement: 6W

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: JoAnn Melgar for Howard Himes - Director
Health & Human Services Administration

REPORT BY: JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722

SUBJECT: Agreement with St. Joseph Health Northern California, LLC (Whole Person Care SOAR Program)

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with St. Joseph Health Northern California, LLC for an annual maximum of \$70,798 for the term June 19, 2018 through June 30, 2020, and for a maximum of \$35,397 for the term July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, to identify and assist applicants in the Whole Person Care program with applications for Social Security Insurance and Social Security Disability Insurance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County Health and Human Services (HHSA) has other Social Security Insurance (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program contracts in place through the Mental Health Division with St. Joseph Health Northern California, LLC (St. Joseph Health). Today's requested action is to approve a new agreement with St. Joseph Health for a SOAR program funded by Whole Person Care (WPC) grant funds and dedicated to assisting WPC clients. This agreement will provide increased staffing resources that will allow St. Joseph Health to provide services that are tailored to this client group, such as flexible office hours, additional documentation tracking, and enhanced coordination between St. Joseph Health staff and Abode Outreach Workers who are responsible for meeting clients wherever they are located.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No

What is the revenue source?	Whole Person Care
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Approval of the requested action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to contract Whole Person Care funding to St. Joseph Health, Northern California; however, contracting these funds will allow for the St. Joseph Health, Northern California to enhance its SSI advocacy program.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	None, the contract terminates 6/30/2021
Consequences if not approved:	This program was recommended for funding by a competitive grant process. The Board of Supervisors approves the award of these funds. If the contract is not approved, Whole Person Care grant funds awarded for this purpose will remain unexpended.
Additional Information:	

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 Social Security Insurance (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program was recommended for funding as part of the Whole Person Care (WPC) Round 2 grant award process. The SOAR program, is an evidence-based program designed to increase access to disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) also provides Medicaid and or Medicare health insurance to eligible individuals.

SOAR program is designed to serve these individuals who are eligible to apply for benefits under SSA rules. Nationally, only about 28 percent of individuals who apply for SSI/SSDI are approved on initial application. Homeless people have an even harder time accessing SSI/SSDI benefits, with only 10% approved following their first application compared with 28% overall. When applications are denied, appeals can take an average of 365 days to complete. In that time, applicants can give up hope and lose income and health insurance benefits that they are entitled to receive. In 2017, SOAR programs nationwide, on average achieved initial approval rates of 64% in an average of 96 days on initial SSI/SSDI applications.

In 2017, the County of Napa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) shows there were approximately 1,768 people who were at-risk of being homeless or homeless. Out of those 1,768 people, 658 persons identified themselves as either 65 of age or over and therefore potentially eligible for SSI, or between the ages of 18-64 and disabled and therefore potentially eligible for SSDI benefits.

As part of this contract, St. Joseph Health will be responsible for documenting services in the HMIS database so that Abode Outreach Workers and Housing Navigators can be fully informed of documentation needs and make expedited contact with a client, thereby improving the success rate of applications and reducing the delay in

obtaining benefits.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Ben Guerrieri