



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 9/23/2014

Agenda Placement: 7G

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Shelli Brobst for HOWARD HIMES - Director  
Health & Human Services Administration

**REPORT BY:** Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst - 253-4720

**SUBJECT:** Agreements with Susan Ahart, MD and Nathan Thuma, MD (Outpatient Mental Health)

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign the following agreements for the provision of medication support services for individuals placed in Institutes for Mental Disease facilities, each for the term September 23, 2014 through June 30, 2015 with a provision for automatic renewal:

1. Agreement with Susan Ahart, M.D. for a maximum of \$5,000; and
2. Agreement with Nathan Thuma, M.D. for a maximum of 3,500.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the existing agreements with these contractors, outpatient services are provided to clients of the County's Mental Health Outpatient Managed Care Program in accordance with the terms of an agreement the County has with the California Department of Health Care Services. Approval of the new agreements will replace their current agreements and will address documentation expectations, utilization review standards, and methods of payment for the provision of medication support services for individuals placed in Institutes for Mental Disease facilities.

Nathan Thuma is a local vendor. Susan Ahart is not a local vendor.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?            Yes

Is it currently budgeted?            Yes

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Where is it budgeted?	Health & Human Services Mental Health Budget Unit 20002
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The activity is mandated, but the County has some discretion as to the level of services and the provider selected.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Although the agreements terminate June 30, 2015, they contain a provision for automatic annual renewal, which allows the County the option to continue these services into the following fiscal year. Future fiscal years will be budgeted accordingly.
Consequences if not approved:	If the recommended agreements are not approved, the County will be unable to pay the providers for additionally authorized mandated mental health outpatient services provided during Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

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**

On April 1, 1998, HHS implemented the outpatient phase of the Mental Health Managed Care Program. The program is governed by the terms of Agreement No. 4028 with the State Department of Mental Health, regulations promulgated by the federal Medicaid and California Medi-Cal programs, and by a provider operations manual developed by HHS staff. HHS is able to bill Medi-Cal for services performed by providers and receives approximately 50 percent federal reimbursement for those services. Remaining costs are funded by realignment funds. The network of providers includes Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), and Masters-prepared Psychiatric Nurses. Currently, the managed care program has 350-400 clients whom the providers treat on a regular basis.

Agreements for psychiatrists practicing in Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD's) have been reformulated to take into account differences in practice requirements, reimbursement, and institutional expectations when compared to those providers who practice in the community. Thus, IMD doctors Susan Ahart and Nathan Thuma will have their current County agreements terminated and renewed with new terms and conditions designed specifically for these providers. The new agreement will address documentation expectations, utilization review standards, and methods of payment.

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### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Collins