
Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

April 7, 2020

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or Designee to Approve and Execute Amendments to Behavioral Health Department Fiscal Year 2019-20 Medi-Cal Service Contracts to Modify Payment Provisions, Without Changing Previously Approved Contract Maximum Amounts; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director or Designee to Execute, the Fourth Amendment to the Turning Point Foundation Agreement for Adult Wellness and Recovery Center and Growing Works Services to Add Locations for and Online Methods of Service Delivery; and Authorization for the VCBH Director or Designee to Approve and Execute Amendments to VCBH Service Contracts With Specific Service Provision Locations to Add Mutually Agreed Upon Locations for and Online Methods of Service Delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to approve and execute amendments to Behavioral Health Department Fiscal Year 2019-20 Medi-Cal service contracts to modify payment provisions, without changing the previously approved contract maximum amounts, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and the County Executive Office.
2. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to execute, the fourth amendment to the Turning Point Foundation agreement for adult wellness and recovery center and growing works services to add locations for and online methods of service delivery.
3. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve and execute amendments to VCBH service contracts with specific service provision locations to add mutually agreed upon locations and online methods of service delivery where appropriate and necessary, upon review and approval of County Counsel and the County Executive Office.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to the proposed recommendation.

DISCUSSION:

Recommendation No. 1

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the County health officer's March 20, 2020, Stay Well at Home order, many of VCBH's Medi-Cal service contract providers are unable to provide face-to-face services to clients. Until effective alternatives to face-to-face contacts are established, many of these providers will suffer a significant drop in monthly payments from VCBH because their monthly payments are based on the units of services provided during the billing period multiplied by a contracted unit rate. This drop in payments may compromise the ability of the providers to retain their personnel during the duration of the emergency and ensure that personnel will be available once face-to-face contacts resume.

Normally, at the end of the fiscal year, VCBH reconciles the actual costs of services provided by the provider to the amount paid throughout the fiscal year, and typically makes an appropriate reconciliation payment to the provider or the provider makes a reconciliation payment to VCBH for any over payment made to the provider throughout the fiscal year. To address the dilemma presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, VCBH recommends that your Board authorize the VCBH Director or designee to modify the payment provisions in these service contracts, where appropriate, to provide for monthly payments to the provider for the remainder of the current fiscal year based on a pro rata amount (generally for the months of March through June 2020) of the difference between the amount to be paid to the provider by the County (generally for services provided prior to March 1, 2020) and the annual contract maximum amount, rather than on the per-unit-of-services calculation. The annual contract maximum amount would not be changed. For example, for a FY 2019-20 contract with a maximum contract amount of \$1,000,000, for which the provider had or will be paid \$600,000 for services through February 2020, the difference between the amount paid and the maximum contract amount would be \$400,000 ($\$1,000,000 - \$600,000$), which would be divided by the remaining four months in the fiscal year (March through June), to determine a new monthly payment for those months of \$100,000 ($\$400,000 \div 4$).

This will help the contract providers to maintain their personnel during the duration of the emergency and remain available as service providers within our county. At the end of the fiscal year, VCBH will still perform the normal reconciliation and then work with the service providers on any further amendments that may be warranted to address the

consequences of the pandemic. Any further amendments that are needed would be brought to your Board for approval.

Recommendation No. 2

The Turning Point Foundation agreement specifies provision of adult wellness and recovery services at two specific locations in Ventura and Oxnard. Due to the difficulties regarding the provision of face-to-face services, the Turning Point Foundation would like to offer the same services but at more locations around Ventura County and possibly through online methods. VCBH recommends amending the Program Description within the agreement with the Turning Point Foundation for adult wellness and recovery center services to modify the locations and manner of the provision of services.

Recommendation No. 3

In order to remain nimble during the COVID-19 pandemic, VCBH seeks authority to approve and execute similar amendments to other VCBH service contracts with specific service provision locations to add mutually agreed upon locations and online methods of service delivery where appropriate and necessary, upon review and approval of County Counsel.

Accordingly, VCBH recommends that your Board authorize the VCBH Director or designee to approve and execute amendments to VCBH Fiscal Year 2019-20 Medi-Cal service contracts to modify payment provisions as described above, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and the County Executive Office, without changing previously approved contract maximum amounts; approve and authorize the VCBH Director or designee to execute the fourth amendment to the agreement with the Turning Point Foundation for adult wellness and recovery center and growing works services to add locations for and online methods of service delivery; and authorize the VCBH Director or designee to approve and execute amendments to other VCBH service contracts with specific service provision locations to add mutually agreed upon locations and online methods of service delivery where appropriate and necessary, upon review and approval of County Counsel.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Sevet Johnson at 981-1881.



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
Behavioral Health Director



MICHAEL TAYLOR
Health Care Agency Chief Financial Officer



WILLIAM T. FOLEY
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1: Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Turning Point Foundation for Adult Wellness and Recovery Center and Growing Works Services