



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
December 3, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Kelly Wallace, Interim Director, Health, Housing & Community Services  
Subject: Contract Amendment: Bay Area Hearing Voices Network for Hearing Voices Support Groups

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with vendor Bay Area Hearing Voices Network (BAHVN) to provide Hearing Voices Support Groups through June 30, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$68,442.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the additional scope of work in the amount of \$18,442 (in addition to their current contract for \$50,000) will be provided from ERMA GL Code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990. The Contract Management System number for this contract is CMS No. YAMTT.

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.

This amendment will expand the contract's scope of services to include both a new Youth support group and a Family Members/Caregivers support group. The purpose of the Youth group will be 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 will help improve relationships and will provide 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.

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. City Council approved the MHSA Plan FY2019-2020 Annual Update on July 23, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,033-N.S., which included funding for this contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts 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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Steven Grolnic-McClurg, Manager of Mental Health Services, HHCS, 510-981-5249

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT 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, within the City Council approved MHSA Plan FY2019-2020 Annual Update was an allocation of \$34,736 for contracted Hearing Voices Support Groups; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the current budget year in ERMA GL Code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990 and this contract has been entered in the Citywide contract database and assigned CMS No. YAMTT.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with the Bay Area Hearing Voices Network for Hearing Voices Support Groups through June 30, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$68,442. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

