



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 11, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services  
 Subject: Contract No. 32000240 Amendment: Berkeley Unified School District for  
 Mental Health MHSA-Funded Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an amendment to Contract No. 32000240 with Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to provide Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funded programs in local schools through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$637,778. This amendment will add one year to the contract term and \$245,000 in funding.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the scope of work in the amount of \$245,000 will be provided from the Mental Health Service Act Fund with \$95,000 for the Dynamic Mindfulness Program and \$150,000 for the African American Success Project. The funds will be carried over into Fiscal Year 2022 and appropriated as part of the First Amendment to the FY 2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance and then encumbered.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Mental Health Services Act Plan Update, funding for three BUSD projects was continued, and funding for one additional project was added. These programs have continued in the most recent academic year, with the exception of the MEET program, which was paused due to challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This council item is the mechanism for approval to transfer funds for these projects to BUSD. Moreover, it allows the Mental Health Division to provide oversight for that funding through monitoring an approved contract.

The Mental Health Division has worked closely with BUSD for many years, successfully implementing a variety of programs to support the needs and enhance the well-being of the student body, and providing a solid foundation for positive youth development. Funding programs to be administered directly by BUSD has proven to be an effective model in the past, as it allows educators to tailor programs to meet the individual needs of students within the context of their school setting. Funding for these services and supports has been included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

## BACKGROUND

On November 12, 2019 via Resolution No. 69,168-N.S., City Council approved entering into a contract with BUSD that encompassed four separate programs, each of which are administered by BUSD: the Mental Health Peer Education and Supports Project, the Dynamic Mindfulness Program, the Supportive Schools Program, and the African American Success Project. Program descriptions are as follows.

- Mental Health Peer Education Program (MEET)

This program implements a mental health curriculum for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and an internship program for a cohort of high school students in an effort to increase student awareness of common mental health difficulties, resources, and healthy coping and intervention skills. The funding for this program also supports coordination of mental health services within Berkeley High School.

- Dynamic Mindfulness Program (DMind)

This evidence-based trauma-informed program is validated by independent researchers as a transformative program for teaching youth skills for optimal stress resilience and healing from trauma. Program components include in-class and after-school sessions for students, student peer leadership development, training and coaching of school staff, and program evaluation.

- Supportive Schools (previously known as Building Effective Schools Together)

This program supports mental health prevention and intervention services in the Berkeley Elementary schools. Services include classroom, group, and one-on-one psycho-social education and support; outreach and consultation with parents and/or teachers.

- African American Success Project (AASP)

Closely aligned with the work of Berkeley's 2020 Vision, the AASP works with African American youth and their families to actively engage students in the classroom and school life while creating a pathway for their long-term success. The project implements a three-pronged approach that includes case management and mentorship (which are individualized and tailored to meet each student's needs), community building, and family engagement.

In the past, the Mental Health Division had three separate contracts in place with BUSD for MEET, DMind, and Supportive Schools.

- Mental Health Peer Education Program – Contract No. 10922.
- Dynamic Mindfulness Program – Contract No. 31900099.
- Building Effective Schools Together – Contract No. 31900108.

Along with adding in funding for the African American Success Project, the Mental Health Division more recently consolidated all the funding into one contract in order to consolidate contract monitoring responsibilities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BUSD has encountered difficulties implementing the MEET program during Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and has requested that funding for this program be omitted from the current contract, but hopes to implement this important program in future years. The Supportive Schools program was implemented in Fiscal year 2020-2021, but it was discovered that funding for this program had been accounted for in previous fiscal years, so BUSD has agreed to forgo receiving additional funding for this program specifically in this contract. In future contracts, funding for both of these programs will be added.

The State of California MHSA provides funding for local mental health services and supports. City of Berkeley MHSA Three Year Program and Expenditure Plans (Three Year Plans) and Annual Updates detail the uses of local MHSA funds. Development of local MHSA Three Year Plans and Annual Updates require community program planning, writing a draft plan, providing a 30-day public review, and conducting a public hearing at the Mental Health Commission.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the action recommended in this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

BUSD is a trusted partner in the implementation of programs to ensure students' needs are met in the most effective manner possible. Each of the programs funded by this contract were developed as a result of feedback from stakeholders and went through a lengthy community input process before being presented to City Council as part of the MHSA Plan Annual Update.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

City Council could decide not to fund these programs altogether, however as in-person instruction increasingly resumes it will be important to have these services in place to support student mental health.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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Contract No. 32000240 Amendment: BUSD for Mental Health  
MHSA-Funded Programs

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Attachments:  
1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 32000240 AMENDMENT: BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
(BUSD) FOR MENTAL HEALTH MHSA-FUNDED PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019 via Resolution No. 69,168-N.S., City Council approved entering into a contract with BUSD to fund the Mental Health Peer Education and Supports Project, the Dynamic Mindfulness Program, the Supportive Schools Program, and the African American Success Project; and

WHEREAS, community input and stakeholder feedback has determined a need for the programs being funded; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) has been a trusted partner in the implementation of a variety of programs in collaboration with the City; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the current budget year in the Mental Health Services Act Fund \$95,000 for the Dynamic Mindfulness Program and \$150,000 for the African American Success Project and will be carried over to FY 2022 and appropriated in the First Amendment to the FY 2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance and then encumbered.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 32000240 with the Berkeley Unified School District for MHSA-funded programs through June 30, 2021 increasing the contract by \$245,000 for a new total not to exceed amount of \$637,778. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

