



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
January 16, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
Subject: Contract No. 32300134 Amendment: Bonita House for Specialized Care Unit Provider

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to amend Contract No. 32300134 with Bonita House to add \$11,500 of state Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) grant funding for a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,579,500.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This amendment will add \$11,500 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,579,500. Funding for the Bonita House contract for the Specialized Care Unit (SCU) is available in the FY 2024 budget in State of California CCMU funding in the One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 336), which specifically funds mobile crisis response activities.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The SCU is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity. City Council approved the selection of Bonita House as the SCU service provider on December 13, 2022. Throughout 2023, Bonita House has hired and trained staff for the SCU. The SCU began providing crisis response services to the Berkeley community on September 5, 2023. In order to conduct SCU services, Bonita House has rented vehicles while the team waits for the City-purchased vehicles to arrive. Because the new vehicles are not yet available, the state has approved a budget modification moving funds initially set aside for maintenance of purchased vehicles during calendar 2023 to reimburse costs of rental vehicles from September and October of 2023.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Re-Imagining Public Safety process, the City engaged in research and planning to implement a 24/7 SCU to respond to and support people who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis without direct involvement of the police. The SCU is different than the City's current Mobile Crisis Team that is a partnership of HHCS' Mental Health Division (HHCS/MH) and the Police Department.

Design for the SCU began in Fall 2020 with contracted consultant, Resource Development Associates (RDA), and the establishment of the SCU Steering Committee, an advisory group of HHCS and Berkeley Fire Department staff as well as representation from the Berkeley Mental Health Commission and Berkeley Community Safety Coalition. After extensive work with the community, the City selected Bonita House as the provider for the SCU and services began in September 2023.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No environmental sustainability and climate impacts directly associated to this recommendation have been identified.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The additional funding from the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) program was initially allocated for vehicle maintenance for City-purchased vehicles. Due to supply chain issues and vehicle customizations, the SCU has rented vehicles to perform necessary program operations in their initial operating months. Repurposing these CCMU funds to support rental vehicle costs aligns with the intent to support SCU vehicles for crisis response operations.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered because these funds are meant to be used to support vehicle-related costs for the SCU and this aligns with the spend plan approved by the CCMU funder.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Katie Hawn, Senior Management Analyst, HHCS, 510-981-5411

Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services, 510-981-5404

Attachment:

1. Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 32300134 AMENDMENT: BONITA HOUSE FOR SPECIALIZED  
CARE UNIT PROVIDER

WHEREAS, Contract #32300134 was awarded to Bonita House, Incorporated to implement the City of Berkeley's new Specialized Care Unit (SCU); and

WHEREAS, through Contract #32300134 Bonita House has hired and trained staff to provide daily crisis response services to Berkeley community members; and

WHEREAS, \$11,500 was allocated through the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) grant to support vehicle maintenance throughout the summer and fall of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the SCU has been using rental vehicles while awaiting the arrival of City-purchased vehicles in order to provide necessary crisis services; and

WHEREAS, this grant funding has been approved to reimburse costs of these rental cars that Bonita House has used to implement the SCU in September and October 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to amend the SCU Contract No. 32300134 with Bonita House by adding \$11,500 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,579,500. Funding is available in the FY2023 budget in State of California CCMU funding in in the One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 336), which specifically funds mobile crisis response activities.

