

September 23, 2008

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Community Mental Health Services, requests to reduce its extra-hire budget and contract with Heart of Humanity Health Services, Inc. to provide nursing services for the Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES).

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the following budget adjustments:

Action	SAP Funds Center	Description	SAP Commitment Item	CI Description	FY 08/09 Budget Adjustment
Increase	1000042000	Contracts	5210110	Contract for Nursing Registry	\$50,000
Decrease	1000042000	Adult--CMHS	5110200	Salaries -Extra Hire	\$50,000

2. Authorize President to execute FY 2008/2009 Agreement with Heart of Humanity Health Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for nursing services.

SUMMARY: Community Mental Health Services operates the County's only 24 hour a day seven day a week Psychiatric Emergency Service. Licensing by the state Department of Mental Health and quality client care requires the unit to have a Registered Nurse on duty around the clock. Staffing three shifts a day seven days a week obviously presents scheduling challenges. At times extra-hire RN's have been difficult to recruit and retain. Having a contract with a local nursing registry will help to solve this issue by providing a larger pool of qualified nurses.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT: The proposed adjustment from extra-hire to contract with the nursing registry will enable Community Mental Health Services to improve stability in staffing in the Psychiatric Emergency Services; to strengthen and improve the care given to clients who are experiencing a psychiatric emergency. It will also reduce the use of overtime by regular hire staff and prevent possible errors by staff who has worked for more than one shift to cover the nursing duties of the PES.

FISCAL IMPACT: The adjustments from extra-hire to contract of \$50,000 for FY 2008-2009 will have no fiscal impact on the Department's budget. There is no increase in net county cost associated with this request.

REVIEWED BY:

Auditor Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Sincerely,

Larry Meredith, PhD
Director

SAP Document #10013005