



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Health System



**Date:** September 18, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** November 4, 2014  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System  
Stephen Kaplan, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**Subject:** Agreement with Voices of Recovery San Mateo County

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Voices of Recovery San Mateo County for consumer-operated self-help and peer-support services, criminal justice realignment services, wellness and recovery services, and Wellness Recovery Action Plan group services for the term of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$224,334.

**BACKGROUND:**

Voices of Recovery San Mateo County (VORSMC) is the only agency in the County that provides consumer-operated self-help and peer-support services for individuals with co-occurring alcohol and drug and mental health disorders. In an effort to support those who have been affected by addiction, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence collaborated with local stakeholders to create VORSMC.

In September 2011, VORSMC was established as an independent 501(c)(3) consumer-run organization to provide consumer peer-support and self-help services in San Mateo County. VORSMC's services are essential to supporting consumers as they progress through all phases of wellness/recovery, including periods of relapse. Peer-support services are cost effective and have been found to engage clients who otherwise may not be able to participate in community activity programs on their own.

In January 2014, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) issued a Letter of Interest for the provision of peer-led support services through a Recovery Community Organization (RCO). The peer-led RCO would provide opportunities for education, wellness and support services for individuals in or in need of long-term recovery from substance abuse, and support services to impacted families. VORSMC submitted a letter of interest and was selected to provide these services.

**DISCUSSION:**

VORSMC will provide: consumer-operated self-help and peer-support services for individuals with co-occurring alcohol and drug and mental health disorders, health and wellness groups, and support through a total wellness program. In particular, VORSMC will provide Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) groups to formerly incarcerated adults through the Criminal Justice Realignment Act and Drug Court clients as they transition to the aftercare phase of treatment. WRAP is a self-designed plan for staying well, increasing personal responsibility, and improving the quality of daily life.

The Resolution contains the County's standard provisions allowing amendment of the County's fiscal obligations by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The agreement and Resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form. The agreement is on the Continuing Resolution.

Approval of this agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing consumer-run peer-support services for adults and transition-age youth. BHRS provides a range of services to support consumers as they progress through all phases of wellness/recovery, and through periods of relapse. The provision of consumer-run peer-support services is one established level of support. Participation in support activities is an indicator of recovery improvement and clients' commitment to their own wellness and recovery. An increase in unduplicated attendance indicates that the contractor is serving a larger audience and is being successful in reaching an underserved population. It is anticipated that there will be a 10% increase in unduplicated attendance for peer support/recovery activities.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

Measure	FY 2013-14 Estimate	FY 2014-15 Projected
Percentage of increase in unduplicated attendance for peer support/recovery activities	10%	10%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the agreement is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and the maximum obligation is \$224,334. Of that amount, the Mental Health Services Act will fund \$161,126, Criminal Justice Realignment will fund \$37,500, Adult Drug Court will fund \$21,208, and Measure A will fund \$4,500. There is no Net County Cost. Funds for these services are included in the BHRS FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget. The payment provisions and levels of service in the agreement are essentially the same as the prior agreement.