



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

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**Department:** HEALTH

**File #:** 23-1000

Board Meeting Date: 12/12/2023

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**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Louise F. Rogers, Chief, San Mateo County Health  
Lisa Mancini, Director, Aging and Adult Services

**Subject:** Amendment to the Agreement with Benefit Service Center to Provide Dental and Vision Benefits to Independent Providers of the In-Home Supportive Services Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Acting as the Governing Board of the San Mateo County Public Authority, adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Benefit Service Center to provide dental and vision benefits to independent providers of the In-Home Supportive Services program, extending the term through December 31, 2024, and increasing the maximum amount payable by \$525,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,750,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance establishing the Public Authority (PA) as the legal entity to administer the provider component of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. The ordinance also designated the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors as the PA's Governing Board (Board). The mission of IHSS is to help eligible elderly, blind, and disabled individuals remain in their homes for as long as safely possible. The program uses independent providers to assist County residents with a wide variety of daily living activities, including bathing, eating, preparing meals, and performing certain paramedical services authorized by a physician.

The Service Employees International Union represents the IHSS independent providers in negotiations regarding issues such as wages and health, dental, and vision benefits.

In January 2021, the Board adopted the current MOU, pursuant to which the PA administers benefits, including health benefits, for IHSS providers.

In 2015, the Board approved an agreement with Benefit Service Center (BSC) to provide dental and vision benefits to IHSS providers for the term of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

In August 2016, the Board authorized an amendment to the agreement extending the term through December 31, 2017, and increasing the maximum amount payable to \$1,500,000. Additional annual amendments extended the term through December 31, 2023, and increased the maximum payable to an amount not to exceed \$3,225,000.

**DISCUSSION:**

This amendment increases the dental premium from \$13.51 to \$13.86 and leaves the vision premium unchanged at \$5.85 per member. A maximum of 2,200 providers may receive BSC benefits. The total estimated cost of vision and dental benefit premiums for the IHSS providers who receive coverage through BSC and for COBRA participants (17 providers) for the 2024 calendar year is \$524,365. As such, this amendment extends the term of the agreement by one year through December 31, 2024, and increases the maximum amount payable by \$525,000 to an amount not to exceed \$3,750,000.

A waiver of the Request for Proposal process is requested to ensure continuous and uninterrupted dental and vision insurance benefits for IHSS and COBRA participants.

The resolution contains the County’s standard provision allowing amendment of the fiscal obligations under the agreement by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The amendment and resolution have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.

It is anticipated that 100% of eligible IHSS providers and COBRA participants who apply for dental and vision benefits will be enrolled.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2023-24 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2024-25 Projected</b>
Percentage of eligible IHSS providers and COBRA participants who apply for dental and vision benefits that are enrolled	100% 1,282 IHSS providers and COBRA participants	100% 1,318 IHSS providers and COBRA participants

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of this amended agreement is July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2024. This amendment increases the maximum amount payable by \$525,000 to a maximum amount not to exceed \$3,750,000 for the 114-month term. Funds for these services were included in the Aging and Adult Services FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. This amendment will be 100% funded by State and federal sources, with no Net County Cost.