



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: HEALTH

File #: 20-368

Board Meeting Date: 6/2/2020

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Louise F. Rogers, Chief, San Mateo County Health
Scott Gilman, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Subject: **Measure K:** Agreement with TALK: Teaching and Assessing Language for Kids for Alternative Therapy Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Measure K: Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with TALK: Teaching and Assessing Language for Kids for alternative therapy services, for the term July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$510,000.

BACKGROUND:

TALK: Teaching and Assessing Language for Kids (TALK) provides intensive, individualized speech and language assessment, treatment and consultation services to children 12 months to 21 years old. Services are unique to the specific need and developmental level of each child, support the healthy development of speech and language, and address a range of sensorimotor and self-regulation issues that these children often struggle with. Functional, measurable goals developed for each client target improvement of communication and self-regulation, resulting in a reduction of emotional outbursts, anxiety, and depression. These critical services are not typically covered by insurance, and not affordable to Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) clients.

DISCUSSION:

TALK will provide intensive and individualized alternative therapy services up to four times per week, to children with speech, voice, social, and developmental disorders. Through the Neurosequential Model Therapy Program, BHRS is more readily able to identify children with speech and language sensory deficits, thus making it easier for staff to make the necessary referrals for this intervention. These services are not: 1) provided by schools through an Individualized Education Plan; 2) covered by insurance; and hence affordable to most families.

Under the B-1 Administrative Memorandum, agreements that provide “sole source” services are exempt from the Request for Proposals process. TALK has developed both a unique and specialized model for this type and intensity of service, which no other organization currently provides.

TALK is a small business that pays their employees higher than average salaries due to the unique services provided. The County's Jury Duty requirement would force last minute cancellations making them unable to bill for services, but still paying the employee salary. The contractor is requesting to waive the Jury Duty requirement as it is a financial hardship.

The resolution contains the County's standard provision 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 goals of the Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) are reviewed and updated bi-monthly based on the progress of the child and continued developmental needs identified by the contractor. It is anticipated that 95% of the clients will show improvement in at least three goals identified in their ITP.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2019-20 Estimated	FY 2020-21 Projected
Percentage of clients that show improvement in at least three goals identified in their ITP	95% 15-20 clients	95% 15-20 clients

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$510,000 for the two-year-term. For FY 2020-21, the amount not to exceed is \$255,000 and has been included in the BHRS FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget. Of this amount, Measure K will fund 100% of the agreement. A similar arrangement will be in place for FY 2021-22.