



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

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**Department:** HEALTH

**File #:** 21-697

Board Meeting Date: 9/14/2021

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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  
Scott Gilman, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**Subject:** Agreement with Free at Last for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with Free at Last for substance use disorder treatment services, for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$1,697,945.

**BACKGROUND:**

For over 20 years, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) has contracted with Free at Last (FAL) for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services, serving children, families, adults, and older adults. Services include outpatient and residential recovery services.

In April 2016, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Federal Government approved the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver for substance use disorder treatment services. In July 2017, FAL began providing services under the DMC-ODS waiver, which allowed FAL and other providers to bill for many more services than they were previously able.

**DISCUSSION:**

Through the DMC-ODS waiver, FAL continues to provide expanded substance use disorder treatment services for children, families, adults, and older adults, through outpatient and residential treatment programs. These programs include a recovery-based support system; address legal and medical issues; teach basic life skills such as communication, anger management, and conflict resolution; re-unify families and build parenting skills; assist clients in job training and/or employment; and establish stable housing.

DHCS continues to require changes in service delivery and reporting requirements of substance use disorder treatment services through the DMC-ODS waiver. Due to these changes, BHRS is requesting that your Board waive the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for substance use

disorder treatment services for one year, allowing BHRS time to finalize the implementation of DMC-ODS waiver-related changes to this and all other BHRS substance use related contracts. In late 2021, BHRS will release an RFP for substance use disorder treatment services to start on July 1, 2022.

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. This agreement has been delayed due to prolonged contract negotiations and is on the Continuing Resolution.

Successful treatment discharge occurs when a program participant completes his/her treatment/recovery plan or when a participant is transferred to the next appropriate level of care. It is anticipated that 70% of clients will achieve a successful treatment discharge.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2020-21 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021-22 Estimated</b>
Percentage of program participants that achieve a successful treatment discharge	70% 49 participants	70% 49 participants

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the agreement is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$1,697,945 for the one-year term and will be included in the BHRS FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget. The Mental Health Services Act will fund \$35,047, Federal Financial Participation for Drug Med-Cal will fund \$348,375, Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant will fund \$220,992, 2011 Realignment will fund \$448,914 and AB 109 will fund \$37,279. The Net County Cost is \$607,338.