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December 18, 2018

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVE A 2019 CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO PROVIDE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$207,614

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Approve a master contract augmentation for Community Initiatives (Principal: Ruth William, Executive Director; Location: Oakland, CA 94607; Master Contract No. 900206; Procurement Contract No. 17715) to provide prevention and early intervention services with emphasis on serving the African American population, for the contract period of 1/1/19 - 6/30/19, increasing the procurement from \$0 to \$207,614 (\$207,614 increase);
- B. Delegate authority to the Director of Health Care Services Agency or designee to execute on your behalf the attached contract exhibits; and
- C. Approve and authorize the Auditor-Controller to make the appropriate budget adjustments as shown in the attached Financial Recommendation.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH) is recommending award of a new contract to Community Initiatives as the fiscal sponsor for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) to provide mental health prevention services through empowerment and healing circles using Afrocentric and indigenous restorative justice-based practices.

In Alameda County, there is a disproportionate number of African Americans accessing mental health services relative to their overall composition in the County. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, ACBH data shows African Americans made up 19 percent of all Medi-Cal beneficiaries, yet comprised 32 percent of those who utilized the behavioral health system—mainly in the most restrictive settings like jails, emergency hospitals and crisis stabilization facilities. This disproportionality is compounded by the fact there are insufficient services to adequately address the mental health needs of African Americans in a culturally congruent and affirming manner.

The African American Utilization Report¹ reflected the discrepancies in mental health and substance abuse services for Alameda County's African American community. The report made recommendations for system transformation to effectively serve the African American population in Alameda County. Recommendations included: recognizing the impact of historical trauma across the African American community and exploring solutions to instill a belief and trust in the effectiveness of the County system of care. In addition, feedback from the ACBH sponsored Request for Information Community Session for African American Mental Health Services engaged community members who stated the need for a culturally informed curriculum with a train-the-trainer approach.

The new program to be delivered by Community Initiatives in partnership with RJOY was developed from recommendations provided by the African American Steering Committee for Health and Wellness. A multidisciplinary African American Steering Committee for Health and Wellness was formed in 2015 to advise ACBH on behavioral health services for African-Americans. The Committee consists of community members and leaders. The Committee provided input on culturally responsive services needed in the community, and put forth recommendations which provided a guide in the development of various mental health service programs. The work of the Committee and the feedback provided by community members and family members through a Request for Information (RFI) process in December 2017 summarized the needs in Alameda County. Those needs included ensuring experts are accurately evaluating clients; encouraging more engagement with providers and family; incorporating community-defined approaches and promising practices along with Western medicine; addressing systemic racism and bias of mental health staff; and using culturally specific screening and assessment tools.

Community Initiatives provides a wide range of administrative and fiscal support services and expertise in areas of nonprofit management. It was established in 1996 with an emphasis on providing fiscal sponsorship and management. Community Initiatives currently provides these services to over 100 projects that total more than \$20 million in non-profit assets. Community Initiatives partners with projects which emphasize social justice, environment causes, education, youth development, and health and wellness. RJOY, founded in 2005, has an extensive history working in Alameda County primarily with African American youth, transition age youth, and adults to provide restorative justice-based services and practices focused on creating individual and community healing from trauma and improved mental and physical health. RJOY has done extensive work in Oakland Unified School District and other school districts using the restorative justice values and traditions to create healing and empowerment circles. These efforts have a positive impact on the disproportionately high rate of suspension and disciplinary actions among African American students. RJOY also provides ongoing healing and empowerment groups to vulnerable populations for juveniles in detention centers and young women who are sexually and commercially exploited.

Community Initiatives has contracted with RJOY to deliver this new program implementing empowerment and healing support groups based on African values to support participants in using their voices and experiences to address their mental health needs. RJOY will deliver ten ongoing empowerment support groups reaching over 300 unduplicated participants and train more than 40 community members to serve as facilitators of the empowerment groups per year. This new program will work to reduce stigma, barriers, and negative trends in the African American community; address historical trauma linked to racism, discrimination, microaggressions, and systemic oppression; and decrease social isolation among consumers and family members.

¹ACBH Winter 2011

SELECTION CRITERIA

ACBH released RFP No. 18-04 on June 29, 2018 for the provision of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services for Empowerment/Healing Support Groups for African American community members of all ages. The RFP specified that an Empowerment/Healing Support Group curriculum based on African values was to be developed and implemented to support participants in using their voices and experiences to address their mental health needs. This programmatic approach will provide support to address the mental and psychological health of the community, empowering that community to help reduce the high rates of individuals needing higher and more expensive levels of care. This award recommendation is specific to the competitive bidding process for the African American residents of all ages. Consumers, family members, and caregivers are the target audience of the curriculum and trainings. The RFP was advertised using the General Services Agency (GSA) advertising guideline by posting on the ACBH and GSA websites. In addition, a courtesy email was sent to ACBH contracted providers, other ACBH contacts via existing email distribution lists and GSA distribution list. ACBH held two Bidders' Conferences on July 10, 2018 in Hayward and July 11, 2018 in Oakland with attendance from twenty-one agencies.

For this competitive bidding process, an Evaluation Panel consisting of four subject matter experts from ACBH, Social Services Agency, and a community leader was conducted on September 17, 2018 and September 18, 2018. ACBH received six bids for services. The evaluation panel invited Catholic Charities of the East Bay, Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS) and Community Initiatives (RJOY) for oral interviews. There is one contract to be awarded under this RFP and Community Initiatives (RJOY) was recommended for contract award. The Bidder was notified via email and certified mail of the Evaluation Panel's recommendation on September 26, 2018. ACBH received no bid protest.

The table below summarizes the results of this RFP and the Evaluation Panel's recommendations for contract award for the competitive bidding process for the Empowerment/Healing Support Group for African Americans.

Bidder	Certified Small, Local, or Emerging	Score
Catholic Charities of the East Bay	Yes	423
Global Communication	No	215
Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS)	Yes	434
Community Initiatives (subcontractor RJOY)	No	451
Village-Connect	Yes	319
Youth UpRising	Yes	350

Community Initiatives and RJOY are local, non-profit, community-based organizations and are exempt from the requirements under the Small, Local, and Emerging Business (SLEB) Program.

FINANCING

Financing for this program is from the State Mental Health Services Act funds per the attached Financial Recommendation. There is no increase in net county cost as a result of your approval.

VISION 2026 GOAL

Providing mental health prevention services meets the 10x goal pathway of Health Care for All in support of the shared vision of Safe and Livable Communities and Thriving and Resilient Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colleen", is positioned above the printed name.

Colleen Chawla, Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

CC:FB/wk/tc