

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

BY: James A. Rydingsword

PHONE: 966-2000

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

It is respectfully requested that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors authorize the Human Services Department to send out an RFP for the purpose of recruiting qualified community mental health providers who would contract with the county to provide mental health services to more stable mental health clients. Qualified individuals would contract with the county and then set up and operate their own offices in the community. These contract workers would work under the guidelines established by the mental health contract that the Human Services Department/Behavioral Health currently has with the State Department of Mental Health.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Please see attached memo.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Board Memo pgs. 1-2
Source:		RFP pgs. 3-4
Internal Transfer _____		Letter of Interest pgs. 5-6
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No. 09-464 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 4 Noes: _____
 Absent: Bobby
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments:

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
 Deputy

CAO: [Signature]



**MARIPOSA COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

P.O. Box 99 • Mariposa, CA 95338 • (209) 966-2000 • Fax (209) 966-2486
□ Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (209) 966-2000 □ Employment and Community Services (209) 966-3609
□ Fiscal Services (209) 966-2131 □ Social Services (209) 966-2442



JAMES A. RYDINGSWORD, DIRECTOR

September 22, 2009

To: Members, Board of Supervisors
Rick Benson, CAO

From: Jim Rydingsword, Director 

Re: Request for Permission to create an RFP to contract with qualified community providers who will be able to serve our less serious mental health clients.

Recommendation:

It is respectfully requested that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors authorize the Human Services Department to send out an RFP for the purpose of recruiting qualified community mental health providers who would contract with the county to provide mental health services to more stable mental health clients. Qualified individuals would contract with the county and then set up and operate their own offices in the community. These contract workers would work under the guidelines established by the mental health contract that the Human Services Department/Behavioral Health currently has with the State Department of Mental Health.

Qualified applicants would include individuals with the following qualifications, either Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs), or licensed clinical psychologists (PhDs). All of the above mentioned individuals would have to be licensed in the State of California by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Their work would be supervised and the quality of their work monitored by existing county employees with a classification of Social Work Supervisor II who are also licensed with the Board of Behavioral Sciences and qualified to supervise other workers.

To determine which clients would be appropriate to refer to community providers we would use the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scale. This scale is a part of our initial assessment tools. Each client, during the assessment process, is rated on the GAF scale. It is based on a numbering system of one (1) to one-hundred (100). One (1) meaning that a client is unable to function at all in society and one-hundred (100) meaning a client is able to function in society with no problems. The clients on our current case loads range anywhere from forty (40) on the GAF scale to around fifty (50) or sixty (60). Those that are ranked below fifty (50) are usually clients that are having a difficult time functioning in society and are in need of intense mental health services. Some of these clients may even require hospitalization to stabilize them through the use of medications so they can safely return to the community. Mariposa County Behavioral Health clinicians would continue to serve all clients with a GAF score below 50.

As a client moves up the GAF scale to around 50 or 60 it indicates they may still have mental health issues that need attention but they can usually be managed with less intense services. It is this second group (GAF 50-60) clients that would be appropriate to contract out to community providers.

Background:

Since June of 2004 the Human Services Department / Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has provided all of the mental health services to Mariposa County residents through the means of in-house licensed and registered mental health therapists. Since the beginning we have tried to control our waiting list while providing appropriate services by limiting the number of individual sessions that a client receives to no more than six (6) and once these sessions were exhausted referrals were made to stabilization groups. More recently we have increased the number of individual sessions an individual client is able to receive from six (6) up to twelve (12) to accommodate clients with more intense needs. After the twelve (12) sessions are exhausted we continue to offer groups to assist in their stabilization. Since going to twelve (12) individual sessions we have been able to provide more comprehensive services but it has also created an increasing waiting list that varies from three (3) to six (6) weeks. During one of our meetings with the Mental Health Board, it was suggested that we set up contracts with community providers to free up more of county therapists time so they can provide appropriate services to the more intense clients without having to be concerned with long waiting lists.

Hiring community providers to continue treatment with less intense clients would solve several of our current problems. 1) It would keep the waiting list to within one (1) week. 2) It would allow qualified community providers to see the less intense clients and reduce the case loads of county employees. 3) This plan has the potential to attract qualified therapists to Mariposa County which will increase the number of available therapists in our community and increase our ability to serve all clients in need of services.

Fiscal Impact:

These contract service providers would be cost neutral to Mariposa County in that they would bill MediCal for their services, through our current billing system. Once we receive Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for Workforce Education and Training (WET) activities we may also ask the Board to approve stipends to assist these therapists in setting up practices in Mariposa. These providers will be reimbursed by their MediCal billing and not the county. As private contractors they will be responsible to provide for all of their own costs (except what is available through stipends).

Mariposa County Request for Proposal Mental Health Services

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is being issued by Mariposa County Human Services/Behavioral Health.

The purpose of this RFP is for Mariposa County Human Services/Behavioral Health to enter into contracts with qualified applicants who will take some of our chronic, more stable, clients with a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score of 50+ and provide services for them. The providers we are interested in include individuals with the following qualifications: either Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs), or licensed clinical psychologists (PhDs).

The issuance of a contract does not guarantee that a specific number of clients will be referred to your practice. As these clients are identified they will be referred to qualified applicants. Mariposa County does not guarantee an exclusive contract for the referral of these clients. We have currently identified about 250 cases that are classified with a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score between 50 and 100 and we plan to refer this current group to qualified applicants who are selected as providers in Mariposa County.

Qualified applicants who are selected will be expected to work independently and provide their own office space, equipment, and supplies in Mariposa County. As part of a contract with a selected provider Mariposa County will submit health insurance billing for a selected provider to ensure that billing and payments are timely and consistent. The County may also be able to provide selected providers an incentive to be used for start-up and monthly expenses until billing becomes timely and consistent for a selected provider.

We are requesting you to provide the following information in your proposal:

- The number of clients you would be willing to serve.
- Age group of individuals you have experience working with.
- What arrangements would be made by you for back-up services when you are sick or otherwise unavailable to see clients?
- Terms of your contract. This would include proof of malpractice insurance, dollar values for malpractice, compliance with the Board of Behavioral Sciences licensing rules and regulations and compliance with the CEU rules of the Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- Indicate your willingness to follow the grievance process for problems that may arise between yourself and clients or between yourself, Mariposa County Human Services/Behavioral Health staff and or management staff (Grievance and change of provider forms available upon request).
- Willingness to make Human Services/Behavioral Health aware of clients that wish to change providers or make Human Services/Behavioral Health aware of clients you plan to discharge.

Qualified individuals must be able to demonstrate:

- Ability to work on your own and to keep scheduled appointments or the ability to find a replacement if you are unable to see your clients.
- Ability to work with chronic mental health issues.
- Ability to document progress in therapy in such a way as to avoid Medi-Cal audit exceptions.
- Ability to create assessments, treatment plans, daily progress notes and any other documentation.
- Ability to make your office compliant with any Title 9 regulations that need to be followed or refer clients back to Mariposa County Human Services/Behavioral Health for services.
- Able to demonstrate current knowledge of evidenced based practices.
- Able to demonstrate willingness to work with Mariposa County Mental Health.
- Ability to work in partnership with Mariposa County and other community partners when they are involved with your clients.
- Willingness to adhere to requirements of State of California and Federal licensing statutes, show proof of malpractice insurance and able to show compliance with all pertinent Mariposa County regulations. As a County/State agency we require that each contractor go through our "HIPAA Compliance" training.
- Ability to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics, confidentiality, non-discrimination, drug-free workplace requirements as well as any other requirements that may impact your work with Mariposa County.
- Ability to create measurable objectives and to document progress in progress notes..
- Ability to effectively meet deliverable requirements, as outlined in Scope of Work.

We will accept questions or inquiries from all potential bidders receiving this RFP. If you have questions or are interested in working with this population of clients you should submit a brief proposal (5-7 pages maximum) to Mariposa County Human Services Department/ Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Attn: John Lawless, Post Office Box 99, Mariposa, CA 95338, or call (209) 966-2000 or email to jlawless@mariposacounty.org.

Upon selection by the Department, contracts will commence beginning in January of 2010. An annual renewal process will be implemented for ongoing funding, upon successful completion of deliverables. Payments will be made to the contractor directly from Medi-Cal or insurance companies.

We look forward to hearing from you about how you can help to provide this important service for Mariposa County residents.

Date

Dear Mental Health Provider:

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is being issued by Mariposa County Human Services/Behavioral Health.

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- Able to demonstrate current knowledge of evidenced based practices.
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- Ability to work in partnership with Mariposa County and other community partners when they are involved with your clients.
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Sincerely,

James Rydingsword
Director