



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 11, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services
 Subject: Contract No. 32300134 Amendment: Bonita House for Specialized Care Unit Provider

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to amend Contract No. 32300134 with Bonita House to add \$68,000 of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding for the Specialized Care Unit for a not-to-exceed total of \$4,568,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This amendment will add \$68,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,568,000. Funding for the Bonita House contract for the Specialized Care Unit (SCU) evaluation is available in the FY2023 budget in the Mental Health Services Act Fund 315. Funds will be appropriated as part of the First Amendment to the FY 2024 Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The SCU is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity. City Council approved the selection on December 13, 2022. Throughout 2023, Bonita House has started hiring staff and purchasing operational supplies. This additional funding set aside through the previously-approved MHSA plan will help support continued operations of the SCU's initial implementation activities including recruitment and purchasing supplies.

BACKGROUND

In response to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in May 2020 and the ensuing protests across the nation, a conversation emerged about how policing can be done differently. The Berkeley City Council initiated a wide-reaching process to re-imagine safety in the City of Berkeley. As part of the Re-Imagining Public Safety process, the City engaged in research and planning to implement a 24/7 SCU to respond to and support people who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis without direct involvement of the police. The SCU will be different than the City's current Mobile Crisis Team that is a partnership of HHCS' Mental Health Division (HHCS/MH) and the Police Department.

Design for the SCU began in Fall 2020 with contracted consultant, Resource Development Associates (RDA), and the establishment of the SCU Steering Committee, an advisory group of HHCS and Berkeley Fire Department staff as well as representation from the Berkeley Mental Health Commission and Berkeley Community Safety Coalition. The City of Berkeley, in partnership with RDA, conducted extensive community engagement and stakeholder analysis to determine a model that would best serve the Berkeley community. This work culminated in 25 recommendations for the implementation of the SCU. These recommendations for implementation were subsequently evaluated by the SCU Steering Committee, with accompanying analysis to further create a SCU that would meet the community need in Berkeley.

The City of Berkeley released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract with a community-based organization (CBO) to serve as and implement the SCU. After a competitive proposal process, Bonita House was selected as the provider for the SCU and approved by Council in December 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No environmental sustainability and climate impacts directly associated to this recommendation have been identified.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The additional funding planned in the MHSA plan will support SCU operations and assist in sustaining a pilot program for a full two-year period. Amending the SCU contract to include the MHSA funding for the SCU is in direct alignment with the already approved MHSA plan.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered because the MHSA plan has already been approved with this funding line item for the SCU.

CONTACT PERSON

Katherine Hawn, Special Projects Coordinator, HHCS, 510-981-5411

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32300134 AMENDMENT: BONITA HOUSE FOR SPECIALIZED
CARE UNIT PROVIDER

WHEREAS, Contract #32300143 was awarded to Resource Development Associates (RDA) to design and implement an evaluation for program effectiveness of the Specialized Care Unit (SCU); and

WHEREAS, through Contract #32300134 Bonita House has started hiring staff and purchasing supplies for the SCU; and

WHEREAS, \$68,000 was allocated as a part of Berkeley's previously approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plan to directly support the SCU; and

WHEREAS, Bonita House is the most qualified organization to receive the additional funding to further support implementation of Berkeley's SCU.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to amend the Specialized Care Unit Provider Contract No. 32300134 with Bonita House by adding \$68,000 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,568,000. Funds will be appropriated as part of the First Amendment to the FY 2024 Annual Appropriations Ordinance in the Mental Health Services Act Fund 315.

