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March 19, 2024

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

SUBJECT: APPROVE MULTI-YEAR MASTER CONTRACT AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-BINARY, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, QUEER OR QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, AND MORE ON THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY SPECTRUM FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,400,000

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Approve new Procurement Contracts under Master Contract Agreements to provide behavioral health early intervention services to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, gender non-binary, gender non-conforming, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more on the gender and sexuality spectrum for youth and young adults as the result of a competitive procurement process for the contract period of 5/1/24 – 6/30/25, in the amount of \$1,400,000:
 1. Horizon Services, Inc. (Procurement No. 26641; Master Contract No. 900090; Principal: Jamie Campos; Location: Hayward) in the amount of \$700,000;
 2. Side by Side (Procurement No. 26590; Master Contract No. 900526; Principal: Christine Isana Garcia; Location: Hayward) in the amount of \$700,000;
- B. Delegate authority to the Agency Director or designee to negotiate and execute the agreement through the Community-Based Organization master contract process subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel and submit executed copies to the Clerk of the Board for filing; and
- C. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to make related budget adjustments increasing appropriations by \$200,000 with offsetting revenue from Mental Health Services Act funds.

DISCUSSION/ SUMMARY

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH) is requesting approval of new procurement contracts with Horizon Services, Inc. (Horizon) and Side by Side to provide behavioral health early intervention services to Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more on the gender and sexuality spectrum (LGBTQIA+) youth and young adults (Y/YA).

Behavioral health early intervention services provided by Horizon and Side by Side will promote the wellness of LGBTQIA+ Y/YA ages 12-24. Services provided include individual and group therapy, suicide prevention and assessment, education, peer support, programming to connect Y/YA to LGBTQIA+ Y/YA community, and resource navigation and linkage to referrals in areas including but not limited to the following: employment/education, LGBTQIA+ affirming physical health care, legal supports related to gender or name changes, and longer-term mental health and substance use/misuse treatments. These services also include education for parents/caregivers/family members to help foster safe and affirming spaces for their LGBTQIA+ Y/YA.

Horizon

Under this new award, Lambda Youth Project (LYP) will provide essential early intervention mental health and substance use disorder services to LGBTQIA+ Y/YA at the LYP drop-in center. LYP plans to utilize this new funding to engage 750 participants per fiscal year throughout Alameda County through outreach and engagement strategies including leveraging partnerships with school districts, social media campaigns and advertising at local colleges, coffee shops and community centers. Through the early intervention services, LYP will provide early intervention/preventive counseling sessions for approximately 50 unique LGBTQIA+ Y/YA each fiscal year.

Side by Side

Under this new award, Side by Side will provide advocacy and support services for LGBTQIA+ Y/YA and parents/caregivers and training for educators. Services to be provided under this new award include mental health support services, peer support workshops, monthly workshops for parents and families, and development of youth committee infrastructure. Services will be provided in the San Lorenzo and Hayward Unified School Districts, at the Our Space Community Center and at youth-serving organizations in the community. In terms of peer support, the program is anticipated to deliver 200-250 workshops which will serve approximately 360 youth across four high schools and four middle schools, and 150 youth through the Our Space Community Center.

Your Board's approval will allow Horizon and Side by Side to engage in behavioral health early intervention services to support LGBTQIA+ Y/YA and their families. ACBH is requesting delegated authority aligning with the Community-Based Organization master contract process to help expedite these new contracts with approval as to form by County Counsel.

SELECTION CRITERIA

ACBH released Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 23-04 on September 25, 2023, for Y/YA LGBTQIA+ early intervention services. The RFP was advertised for 39 days using the General Services Agency (GSA) guidelines by posting on the ACBH and GSA websites. In addition, a courtesy email was sent to ACBH's contracted providers and other ACBH contacts via existing email distribution lists, including Small, Local, or Emerging Businesses (SLEBs). ACBH held two Bidders' Conferences on October 5, 2023, and October 6, 2023, with attendance from ten agencies.

ACBH received six bids for services: one of which was disqualified for not meeting one of two Bidder Minimum Qualifications. A County Selection Committee consisting of four subject matter experts from ACBH, Santa Clara County, and San Mateo County conducted an evaluation of the five qualified bids on December 14, 2023. The table below summarizes the results of this competitive bidding process and the evaluation panel's recommendation of Horizon Services and Side by Side for this contract award.

Bidder	Certified SLEB	Score	Recommended for Award
<i>Horizon Services, Inc.</i>	Yes	374	Yes
<i>Side by Side</i>	Yes	377	Yes
<i>Bay Area Community Health</i>	<i>No</i>	336	<i>No</i>
<i>Oakland LGBTQ Community Center</i>	<i>No</i>	323	<i>No</i>
<i>Wellness Equity Alliance</i>	<i>No</i>	281	<i>No</i>
<i>Pacific Center for Human Growth</i>	<i>Disqualified</i>		

On December 22, 2023, the bidders were notified via email of the Evaluation Panel’s recommendations. ACBH received a bid protest on December 23, 2023, and responded to this protest on January 16, 2024.

Side by Side elected to be SLEB Certified, certificate No. 12-00161; Expiration Date 11/30/2024. Horizon Services elected to be SLEB Certified, certificate No. 20-00093; Expiration Date 04/30/2025.


FINANCING

Appropriations for the augmentation are funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and an adjustment is requested to the ACBH FY 23-24 Budget per the attached Financial Recommendation and will be requested in subsequent years. Approval of this recommendation will have no impact on net County cost.

VISION 2026 GOAL

The provision of these Y/YA LGBTQIA+ services meets the 10X goal pathway of **Healthcare for All**, in support of the shared vision of a **Thriving and Resilient Population**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Colleen Chawla, Director
 Health Care Services Agency

CC/WV/lr/eh