



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 14, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services  
 Subject: Contract No. 10209E Amendment: Bay Area Hearing Voices Network

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to amend Contract No. 10209E with Bay Area Hearing Voices Network (BAHVN) for Hearing Voices Support Groups for adults and youth who hear voices and have visions, to increase the amount by \$34,736 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$137,914, and to extend the contract through June 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the additional scope of work in the amount of \$34,736 will be provided from Mental Health Services Act Fund budget code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990 and are currently included in the FY 2022 budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley Mental Health (BMH) has partnered with BAHVN since 2016 to provide Hearing Voices Support Groups to the community. BAHVN has proven an effective vendor for this service, and continuing this partnership will provide continuity to consumers and ensure support for community members who experience extraordinary perception. Funding for these services and supports, all of which has been authorized by the MSHA Plan, has been included in the FY22 Budget.

BACKGROUND

On February 2, 2016 BMH entered into Contract No. 10209 with BAHVN to provide support groups to community members who hear voices, see visions, and experience other forms of extraordinary perception. Community input informed the decision to partner with BAHVN, as stakeholders expressed concern that they or those they loved were unable to have their needs met by the existing programs in place at the time.

On December 3, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,193-N.S. City Council authorized the City Manager to amend that contract to expand the scope of services to include both a new Youth support group and a Family Members/Caregivers support group. The purpose of the Youth group is to support young people who hear, see, or sense things others don't, by providing better information, advice, and support for participants. The Family

Members/Caregivers group helps improve relationships and provides supports on better ways to communicate and respond about their own experiences which often include fears, anxieties, and confusions about what their loved ones are going through.

On July 14, 2020 by Resolution No. 69,493-N.S. City Council authorized the City Manager to amend the contract to add an additional year of services. The groups have been well-received by the community and are providing a service that was previously lacking. This amendment will ensure that the vendor can continue offering these groups for the next fiscal year.

Recently, after the shelter-in-place was ordered as a result of COVID-19, BAHVN adjusted their work and began offering their meetings over the Zoom platform, and will continue to offer groups in this manner as needed, allowing those who benefit from this service to maintain a sense of community and engage with others who have similar experiences.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

BAHVN had demonstrated capacity and specialized practices in administering Hearing Voices Support Groups, providing an enhanced level of service to consumers.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

As an alternative action, Council could instead direct staff to circulate a formal RFP to competitively solicit a different vendor, or to not fund this service altogether.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Conor Murphy, Assistant Management Analyst, HHCS, 510-981-7611  
Steven Grolnic-McClurg, Manager of Mental Health Services, HHCS, 510-981-5249

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 10209E AMENDMENT: BAY AREA HEARING VOICES NETWORK  
FOR HEARING VOICES SUPPORT GROUPS

WHEREAS, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds are allocated to mental health jurisdictions across the state for the purposes of transforming the mental health system into one that is consumer and family driven, culturally competent, wellness and recovery oriented, includes community collaboration, and implements integrated services; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2019 by Resolution No. 69,033-N.S., City Council authorized the City Manager to approve the MHSA Plan FY2019-2020 Annual Update; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2016, the City entered into Contract No. 10209 with Bay Area Hearing Voice Network, which has subsequently been amended several times to add funding and extend the term, most recently with amended Contract No. 10209D for an expenditure limit not to exceed \$103,178, authorized by Resolution No. 69,493-N.S on July 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, MHSA funds in the amount of \$34,736 are available in the current budget year in Mental Health Services Act Fund budget code 315-51-503-526-2017-000-451-612990.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to amend Contract No. 10209E with Bay Area Hearing Voices Network (BAHVN) for Hearing Voices Support Groups for adults and youth who hear voices and have visions, to increase the amount by \$34,736 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$137,914, and to extend the contract through June 30, 2022. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

