



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 4, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Gilman, Interim 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 \$500,000 of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act grant for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$5,345,500.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This amendment will add \$500,000 of funding from the State of California for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$5,345,500. Funding for the Bonita House contract for the Specialized Care Unit (SCU) will be available in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 354). These ARPA funds were previously allocated to HHCS for implementation of the Specialized Care Unit as a part of the broader initiative to Reimagine Public Safety, and this recommendation is consistent with that allocation.

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 of Bonita House as the SCU service provider on December 13, 2022. Throughout 2023, Bonita House has hired and trained staff for the SCU. The SCU began providing crisis response services to the Berkeley community on September 5, 2023. Bonita House continues to recruit, hire, and train staff to serve on the SCU, expanding hours into the evening and ramp up to operate 24/7 as staffing allows. This additional funding will support ongoing program implementation costs including, but not limited to recruitment, hiring, training, infrastructure, and salary costs for staff providing direct response services for Berkeley community members experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

BACKGROUND

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 is different than the City's current Mobile Crisis Team, which is a partnership of Health, Housing, and Community Services Department, 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 and representatives of the Berkeley Mental Health Commission and Berkeley Community Safety Coalition. After extensive work with the community, the City selected Bonita House as the provider for the SCU and services began in September 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These additional funds will support Bonita House's ability to continue to implement the SCU pilot program in the City of Berkeley as it expands to a 24/7 crisis services model without law enforcement.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered because these funds are meant to be used to support the implementation of the Specialized Care Unit as allocated as a part of the broader Reimagining Public Safety process.

CONTACT PERSON

Katherine Hawn, Senior Management Analyst, HHCS, (510) 981-5411

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

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

WHEREAS, Contract #32300134 was awarded to Bonita House, Incorporated to implement the City of Berkeley's new Specialized Care Unit (SCU); and

WHEREAS, through Contract #32300134 Bonita House has hired and trained staff to provide daily crisis response services to Berkeley community members; and

WHEREAS, \$500,000 was allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act grant to support direct services costs of the SCU and reimburse for team equipment purchases; and

WHEREAS, this grant funding has been awarded to support direct services costs incurred by SCU staff providing behavioral health crisis response services in Berkeley as well as necessary equipment purchases.

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 SCU Contract No. 32300134 with Bonita House by adding \$500,000 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,354,500. Funding will be available in the FY2025 budget in the American Rescue Plan Act One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 354), which was specifically allocated for SCU implementation as a part of the broader initiative to Reimagine Public Safety.

