

# The County of Yuba

## County Administrator

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** County Administrator, Ian Scott

**SUBJECT:** County Administrator: Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health for Behavioral Health Court and authorize Chair to execute.

**DATE:** October 10, 2023

**NUMBER:** 514/2023

### *Recommendation*

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health for Behavioral Health Court and authorize Chair to execute.

### *Background & Discussion*

The Yuba County Behavioral Health Court (BHC) will serve individuals who are diagnosed with mental health disorders or co-occurring mental health/substance use disorders and who are charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses in the criminal court system of the County of Yuba, or formally supervised by Probation for a misdemeanor or felony offense.

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) will serve four individuals in the BHC at any one time through the full-service partnership with the Probation, District Attorney and Public Defender departments, with Court obligations administered by the Presiding Judge of the Court. Together, this network will serve as the Behavioral Health Court team. Probation will provide coordinated and comprehensive supervision and case management for all participants in the BHC, as well as processing referrals for consideration by the BHC team.

This partnership will work to identify eligible individuals charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses for diversion from conventional sentencing in exchange for demonstrated positive response to treatment. The Yuba County Behavioral Health Court will facilitate County compliance with state policy direction that requires counties to establish diversion programs intended to treat mental health conditions and corresponding contributing factors to criminal behavior. Program participants will be assigned treatment

plans, which connect them with resources, with ongoing monitoring by the Court and County staff to ensure compliance with plan terms.

Similar initiatives in nearby counties have reported effective outcomes for the target population, with corresponding reductions in court and county resource requirements associated with recidivism. Among these outcomes are a reduction in use of local and Department of State Hospital bed stays, and increased quality of life with decreased recidivism in the target population. Establishment and administration of the Yuba County Behavioral Health Court will contribute to the success of the *Yuba County Strategic Plan*. It will enable the progress of the Safety, Social Services, as well as Community and Behavioral Health strategic opportunities found in the Plan. The BHC will enable reprioritization of safety resources, improving social services system navigation and connections to programs, while enhancing behavioral health services.

The Yuba County Behavioral Health Court will act as a separate diversion program, in contrast with the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act (SB 1338) CARE Court program that will be launched in response to SB 1338 at a later date. The BHC is a voluntary diversion program, whereas CARE Court will enable Court mandated treatment which could be generated by a CARE Court Petition. Both the BHC and future CARE Court will provide additional tools for County departments and the Court to divert eligible persons to treatment programs to help them manage their illness.

*Committee Action:*

None. This request is brought directly to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration.

*Fiscal Impact:*

Funding has been allocated in the FY 2023-24 budget for County department staffing associated with the terms of the agreement.

*Attachments*

514/2023 Memorandum of Understanding with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health for Behavioral Health Court