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**Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

Item Number: 1.12

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026

DEPARTMENT: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Geraldine Arce

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Rachel White

SUBJECT:

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT - R. WHITE

1. Approve contract renewal with Seneca Family of Agencies in the amount of \$550,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to provide specialty mental health outpatient services for children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) populations; and
2. Authorize Chair, County Executive Officer, or designee to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 810

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Seneca Family of Agencies ("Seneca") provides specialty mental health outpatient services for children and transitional age youth (TAY) populations and their families within San Benito County.

The department has had difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified clinicians leading to high vacancy and turnover rates within the office. The shortage of clinicians has been an issue for many other counties statewide. By contracting with a community-based organization, the department is working to fill any gaps in services to the community members that would benefit from outpatient mental health services.

As part of this contract agreement, Seneca will provide qualified clinicians to support our children & TAY clinical unit to provide outpatient services, including individual counseling, to served individuals and their families. Seneca will work with the BH department to provide continuous care to those receiving services at the department while deemed medically necessary. Seneca has the experience and staff to provide a variety of Specialty Mental Health Services on behalf of the department.

According to their website, Seneca has been providing services for over 40 years. Their broader mental health services for youth and their families include foster care and juvenile justice services that help about 25,000 youth and families every year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Seneca Family of Agencies was one of two organizations awarded the request for proposal (RFP BH23-002) in 2023 for specialty mental health outpatient services for children and transitional age youth (TAY) populations and their families within San Benito County for fiscal years 2023-2026. Three organizations had applied for the RFP in which two were awarded contracts - Seneca and Rebekah Children's Services. Over the years, Seneca has developed a strong partnership with SBCBH in providing youth mental health services as well as built a great community engagement with mutual clients. They originally had offices at SBCBH's main site and now have dedicated office space in town. They have also demonstrated their interests in growing in the local community through such efforts as participating in local outreach.

Seneca is among a very limited few who is certified with the state to provide services. Their team is comprised of master's-level therapists with expertise in their line of work to provide services to both youth and their families. Seneca offers a variety of outpatient services for clients including assessment, individual and family therapy, case management, and intensive care coordination. They are a partner with San Benito County's Medi-Cal Health Plan provider, Central California Alliance for Health (aka The Alliance) in which SBCBH works alongside with for referrals and resources especially for community members who have low to moderate mental health conditions. Seneca works with SBCBH for clients who have moderate to severe mental health conditions. All three entities are contracted with each other. Other organizations aren't as qualified as they aren't state certified, not set up properly for outpatient services, nor have enough clinicians to support SBCBH's program.

Seneca currently provides services to about 45-50 youth clients. It is crucial for continuity of care to maintain relations with Seneca so that youth can continue to see the same clinicians who they have become familiar with which is very important for youth in their growth and development especially with their mental health needs. There continues to be a general shortage of clinicians statewide. SBCBH has had difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified clinicians leading to high vacancy and turnover rates within the clinic especially in comparison to neighboring counties especially for clinicians who provide services to youth. Being able to contract with community based organizations like Seneca helps with the staffing for SBCBH and being able to continue to provide the needed mental health services for SBCBH clients and the community. Seneca helps increase access to mental health services in San Benito County.

The FY 23-26 contract went through 3 amendments with Amendment #1 expanding the qualified age range, with Amendment #2 adding case management services, and with Amendment #3 adjusting rates to mirror the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) rates.

SBCBH plans to RFP for children's services for FY 27-28.

The following is a summary of Seneca's contracts and amendments:

- FY 23-26 – contract budget is \$2,536,500
 - Actual Costs = \$1,360,010.66
 - FY 23/24 - \$400,842.32
 - FY 24/25 - \$590,787.18
 - FY 25/26 to date - \$368,381.16
 - Amendments# 1-3 had no changes to the contract budget, only to scope of services or rates
- FY 22-23 – contract budget was \$369,000 with actual cost 23,061.25
 - Amendment# 1 – budget was updated to \$419,000
- FY 21-22 – contract budget was \$369,000 with actual cost \$27,388.00
- FY 20-21 (started mid-year 12/15/20-6/30/21) – contract budget was \$119,000 with actual cost \$30,844.55
- FY 19-20 (started mid-year 2/18/20-6/30/20) – contract budget was \$250,000 with actual cost at zero

The G/L# is 228.90.2520.1000.619.250

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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2. Authorize Chair, County Executive Officer, or designee to sign.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agenda Fact Sheet - Seneca Family of Agencies](#)
[FY26-27 Seneca Family of Agencies Contract -revb.pdf](#)
[SBCBH Seneca Sole Source.pdf](#)