



Date: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Danny Renfrow – Chief of Police

Title: **Authorize a letter of support for Nevada County Behavior Health Bond Funding**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

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**Recommended Action:** Authorize the Town Manager to provide a letter of support for Nevada County Behavior Health bond funding to establish a mental health treatment facility in western Nevada County.

**Discussion:**

Nevada County Behavioral Health's application for Bond BHCIP Round 1 funding is to establish a vital mental health treatment facility in western Nevada County. This project addresses a critical need for local inpatient treatment beds, benefiting rural communities by improving access to care, supporting legislative initiatives, and alleviating strain on healthcare and public safety systems. This facility will ensure timely care during crises and position the region to meet future mental health demands.

This initiative will address a critical gap in mental health services by establishing a small, cottage-like inpatient treatment facility. The proposed facility will serve multiple rural northern counties, offering 8 acute care beds (PHF) and 8 sub-acute care beds (MHRC). This project is essential for improving access to timely mental health treatment and creating local capacity to meet both current and future needs driven by evolving legislative initiatives such as SB 43 and Care Court.

Currently, residents in Nevada County and neighboring rural communities lack local access to inpatient treatment facilities. The absence of these essential resource's places undue strain on local healthcare providers, law enforcement, and families. The proposed project will:

- **Improve Access to Care:** By providing local inpatient treatment beds, this facility will reduce delays in treatment and lessen the need for patients to travel hundreds of miles for care.
- **Address Policy Demands:** The facility's capacity will prepare the region to manage increasing mental health care demands stemming from SB 43 and Care Court initiatives.
- **Support Rural Communities:** Residents in rural counties often face unique challenges in accessing healthcare services. This facility will directly address those disparities by offering care tailored to local needs.

The Town of Truckee regularly encounters the significant challenges posed by the lack of local mental health resources. Police officers frequently respond to calls involving community members in mental health crises. Currently, individuals in crisis are transported to the local hospital, where they often endure long waits for placement in an inpatient treatment bed, sometimes located hundreds of miles away.

This situation creates substantial strain:

- For Community Members: Delayed access to care exacerbates mental health crises and prolongs recovery.
- For Local Hospitals: The prolonged wait times impact hospital capacity and resources.
- For Law Enforcement: Officers must often remain with individuals awaiting placement, diverting critical resources from other community needs.

If approved for bond funding, Nevada County would construct this new facility with the goal of opening the facility around 2027, helping to alleviate many of the challenges outlined above by offering timely, local access to care, ensuring better outcomes for community members while improving the efficiency of healthcare and law enforcement responses. For these reasons, staff recommend that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to provide a letter of support to Nevada County office of Behavioral Health that can be included in the application process (Attachment A).

**Priority:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core Service

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Public Communication:** This Staff Report

**Attachments:**

A: Letter of Support for Nevada County Behavior Health Department Bond Funding