



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
The Department of Behavioral Health is requesting to enter a Participation Agreement with California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for Psychiatric Inpatient Concurrent Review Program, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
California Mental Health Services Authority
1610 Arden Way, Suite 175, Sacramento, CA 95815
Contact: Brandon Connors
(888) 210-2515
Brandon.connors@calmhsa.org
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.
The maximum amount of the agreement is \$2,349,984 for two years. The amount is not split up between fiscal years, but a combined two years with one maximum amount. The agreement will not result in an increase in Net County Cost.
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.
CalMHSA administers this program to assist counties in conducting concurrent review and authorization for all psychiatric inpatient hospital and psychiatric health facility services on behalf of the county's mental health plans (MHPs). CalMHSA provides a web-enabled utilization review platform and clinical services to carry out psychiatric inpatient concurrent review and authorization services.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
 - In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
 - When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
 - When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$5,000 whichever is more.
 - When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
 - When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
 - When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.
The services are essential to our county in order to be in compliance when responding to hospitals within the 72-hour time frame, as county staff does not work weekends. County uses CalMHSA to standardize the concurrent review process across the state of California. Per the Department of Health Care Services ("DHCS") Behavioral Health Information Notice ("BHIN") 19-026 and BHIN 22-017, MHPs are required to conduct concurrent review and authorization for all psychiatric inpatient hospital services and psychiatric health facility services.
7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.
CalMHSA entered into a services contract with Acentra Health, LLC to provide a web-enabled utilization review platform and clinical services to carry out psychiatric inpatient concurrent review and authorization services on behalf of multiple California County MHPs. On September 14, 2010, the Board executed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) No. 10-489 to implement Statewide Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention projects through CalMHSA. On June 30, 2021, CalMHSA issued a request for statement of qualifications to solicit a vendor for psychiatric inpatient concurrent review. Acentra Health was the winning bidder..

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Requested By:

Division Manager

Title

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I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

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[\[✉ Sign\]](#) Double click!

Department Head Signature

rblackburn 3/30/2026 8:40:17 AM

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) Double click!

Purchasing Manager Signature