



County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors

Board Report

AGENDA DATE: December 13, 2022
TO: Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Ranell Brown, Director
Health and Human Services
880 Northcrest Drive
Crescent City, CA 95531
SUBJECT: Queer Humboldt Agreement

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Agreement with Queer Humboldt to create the Del Norte County LGBTQ Resource Project, to provide a comprehensive database of resources for the LGBTQ community within Del Norte County for the term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

Queer Humboldt will serve as the fiscal sponsor for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) Thomas Kelem to create The Del Norte County LGBTQ Resource Project, to provide a comprehensive database of resources for the LGBTQ community with a focus on improving the mental health and quality of life of LGBTQ individuals in Del Norte County. Creating accessibility and awareness of resources helps create community, reduces isolation, and provides education. It is shown that isolation and lack of a visible community has a negative impact on the mental health and contributes to suicide of LGBTQ individuals, especially youth who have far less access to the greater world outside our county. By creating a real and virtual LGBTQ community in Del Norte County, the aim will be to create a safer community that fosters better mental health.

The main activities will be researching, collating information and resources, production of digital and print access, distribution of both digital and print formats to as many agencies, organizations, places of social congress, educational entities, and health care providers etc. as possible. In addition to radio station ads, collaboration with high school support groups will spread awareness and work to build a strong community network.

According to the Williams Institute approximately 5.3% of California's population identify as LGBTQ. This percentage means that approximately 2 million residents of California are in the LGBTQ community. While we do not have an exact number of those living in Del Norte County, this project aims to reach approx. 1,500+ individuals per year. This project will

address unique needs of the rural LGBTQ community through surveys and organized events.

Queer Humboldt was selected through the Public Stakeholder process on planning and development of the MHSAs Annual Plan for FY 2022/23. The plan was approved by the Board on June 28, 2022. The Del Norte LGBTQ Resource Project proposal was the only one received for these efforts and Mr. Kelem's over 30 years of experience working with the LGBTQ population in many jurisdictions, including Berkeley/Oakland, and Butte and Del Norte County, supported selection of the proposal. The initial contract request was brought to the Board on October 25, 2022, where additional information was requested by the Board. The total cost of this Agreement is not to exceed \$15,000. This Agreement was delayed in processing due to the development of a new contract template, staffing shortages, and the processing of multiple other Agreements.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not approve the attached Agreement and seek an alternate source for prevention and early intervention services.

FINANCING:

State and Federal funding. No County general funds required.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVMENT:

None.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

This section meets the following outcome measures for children in Del Norte County:

- Children and youth are healthy and preparing for adulthood.
- Families are safe, stable and nurturing.
- Communities are safe and provide a high quality of life.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Final Draft Queer Humboldt FY 2022-23

APPROVALS:

Ranell Brown, Director
Nikole Trinidad, Legal Secretary
Kylie Goughnour , Clerk of the Board

Approved - 12/5/2022
Approved - 12/5/2022
Final Approval - 12/6/2022