



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: February 27, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s): Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Carla Cross, MA, LMFT, ATR-BC, Manager of Clinical
Training and Special Projects
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: University of Southern California FY 23–27 Student Support Agreement

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to execute a Student Support Agreement with the **University of Southern California**, on behalf of its Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, for student learning experiences at the Department of Behavioral Wellness from the date executed by the County through December 31, 2027 (Attachment A);
- B. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to make immaterial amendments to the Student Support Agreement in accordance with the immaterial amendments provision of the Student Support Agreement, upon review and concurrence by County Counsel's Office through December 31, 2027; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and are therefore not projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve and authorize the Behavioral Wellness (BWell) Director or designee to execute a Student Support Agreement with the University of Southern California (USC) for student learning experiences at the Department of Behavioral Wellness from the date executed by the County through December 31, 2027. In addition,

this item seeks delegation of authority to the BWell Director or designee to make immaterial amendments to the Student Support Agreement in accordance with the Subsection S (Immaterial Amendments) of Section III (General Provisions) of the Student Support Agreement, upon review and concurrence by County Counsel's Office through December 31, 2027.

Background:

BWell operates several children and adult mental health clinics and a Psychiatric Hospital Facility throughout Santa Barbara County that require a wide range of licensed mental health and alcohol and drug professionals. Various educational institutions, as part as their accredited mental health and alcohol and drug programs, require students to participate in off-site practicum Student Support Agreement (SSA) experience programs for course credit as part of their curriculum to become licensed mental health and alcohol and drug professionals.

With the severe staffing shortages across the nation in the field of mental health and alcohol and drug services, the SSA programs provide a mutual benefit to USC, its students, and the County. It provides County the opportunity to connect students and graduates to the services and professions available at the County. These programs also provide the opportunity for students to engage in volunteer internships, use County facilities, and obtain clinical experience under supervision by licensed or certified practitioners. Behavior Wellness (BWell) has had prior agreements with USC with limited participation. BWell has a new Masters in Social Work (MSW) scholarship program to encourage staff to advance their education and to increase BWell's capacity to supervise MSW students.

Through the Clinical Social Work Learning Experience, USC students will have a clinical experience where they gain the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to demonstrate competency as a clinical social worker in an environment that is respectful of others, adaptive to change, and accountable for outcomes. Examples of student activities may include observing activities and procedures administered by licensed staff and health care providers with client permission, such as group sessions, intake interviews, case management, and treatment planning; collaborating on treatment planning and providing assessment, plan development, collateral, rehabilitation, and case management services to BWell clients under the direct supervision of BWell program staff; and composing progress notes under the direct supervision of supervising clinical social workers.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts associated with this action as it is purely administrative in nature.

Key Contract Risks:

It is understood and agreed that the USC and County maintain insurance programs to fund their respective liabilities. The Agreement specifies per-occurrence and aggregate limits required of USC for General Liability and Professional Liability coverage. Furthermore, USC must require students to maintain individual auto liability and to maintain health insurance. In exchange for permission to participate in USC's Program with the County, students will sign a Waiver and Release Agreement discharging the County from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with participation in the Program, except to the extent such claims or damages arise from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the County of Santa Barbara.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this action.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to M. Simon-Gersuk at msimongersuk@sbcbbwell.org and to the BWell Contracts Division at bbwellcontractsstaff@sbcbbwell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: USC SSA FY 23-27

Authored by:

Bethany Le