



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: March 1, 2022
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: John Winckler, LMFT, Division Chief of Clinical Operations
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
**SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Services – Hope Refuge, Inc. Services
Contract Termination for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form:

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to terminate for convenience, effective March 15, 2022, the **Hope Refuge, Inc.** (Hope Refuge) Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor Fiscal Year 2021–2022 (BC No. 20-012), originally executed by the County on June 15, 2021, due to Hope Refuge selling assets necessary for the delivery of Specialty Mental Health Services;
- B. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness’ issuance of a Notice of Intent to Terminate Agreement, which terminates the Agreement, effective March 15, 2022, subject to the Board’s approval (Attachment A);
- C. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to take actions necessary for the winddown of the Agreement, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- D. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request Board of Supervisors (Board) approval to terminate the Hope Refuge Services Agreement Fiscal Year (FY) 2021–2022 (BC No. 21-012), effective March 15, 2022; ratify the issuance of the Notice of Intent to Terminate Agreement; and delegate authority for the winddown of the Agreement.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers, including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). CBOs provide various specialty mental health services to adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and children and youth with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED).

The State Department of Social Service (DSS) Continuum of Care Reform, Assembly Bill 403, draws together a series of existing and new reforms to the child welfare services program designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed nurturing family homes. It provides the statutory and policy framework to ensure that services and supports provided to children or youth and their families are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable, permanent family. Both DSS and BWell work as interdisciplinary agencies for determining the need for and placement of County children and youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). A STRTP is a residential facility that provides an integrated program of specialized and intensive care and supervision, services, and support; specialty mental health services; mental health treatment; and short-term, 24-hour care and supervision to children and youth.

The Hope Refuge Agreement was approved by the Board on June 15, 2021 to provide mandated Medi-Cal STRTP services. The Agreement also includes Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), individualized, strength-based interventions designed to correct or ameliorate mental health conditions interfering with a child/youth client’s functioning, and Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) services, those that facilitate the assessment of, care planning for, and coordination of services for child/youth clients. Clients include Medi-Cal eligible children and youth, ages 9 through 19 years of age, with SED, who are residents of Santa Barbara County or presumptive transfer clients from other counties, and who have been temporarily placed in a licensed STRTP.

In October 2021, BWell received notice from Hope Refuge of its intent to sell its assets and discontinue providing Medi-Cal services. Hope Refuge will complete the transfer of assets and cease all operations related to the provision of Medi-Cal services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, effective March 15, 2022. Clients who are currently receiving services at Hope Refuge will be transferred to one of the other STRTP in the County prior to March 15, 2022 in coordination with County staff.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to procure mandated Medi-Cal services with another STRTP Med-Cal provider with no gap in services.

Performance Outcomes and Measures:

During the First and Second Quarters of FY 21–22, Hope Refuge served an average of four clients and discharged four. It met seven of its eight goals. There were no incarcerations or hospitalizations. All clients had stable/permanent housing and were engaged in treatment. No clients were discharged to a higher level of care, and 65% were discharged to a lower level of care with a goal of 85% or higher. All Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) and Pediatric Symptoms Screenings (PSC) were completed.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 21-22 Cost:</u>
General Fund	
State	\$ 576,012.50
Federal	\$ 576,012.50
Fees	
Other:	
Total	\$ 1,152,025.00

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources were included in the FY 21-22 Proposed Budget.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) minute order to Denise Morales at dmorales@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Hope Refuge FY 21-22 Notice of Intent to Terminate Agreement
- Attachment B: Hope Refuge FY 21-22 BC 20-012

Authored by:

D. Morales