



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: April 23, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

Vote Required: ds Majority

TN

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director, (805) 681-5220
Chris Ribeiro, Chief Financial Officer, (805) 681-5220
John Winckler, LMFT, Branch Chief, 805-681-5220

SUBJECT: Resolution for the Designation of Behavioral Wellness Crisis Stabilization Unit as Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Facility

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution designating the **Department of Behavioral Wellness Crisis Stabilization Unit** located at the County’s Calle Real Campus at 305 Camino del Remedio in Santa Barbara, to be operated, staffed and services provided by **Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc.**, (not a local vendor), as a Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150 (5150) facility (Attachment A);
- b) Concur with the execution of a letter to the **California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)** requesting approval of the County designation of the **Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)** located at the County’s Calle Real Campus at 305 Camino del Remedio in Santa Barbara, to be operated, staffed and services provided by **Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc.** (not a local vendor), as an LPS 5150 facility that is substantially similar to the draft provided in Attachment B; 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 to request that the Board adopt a resolution to designate the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) as an LPS 5150 designated facility; and to concur with the execution of a letter to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requesting approval of the County designation of the BWell CSU as an LPS 5150 facility.

Background:

History of CSU

In FY 2015-2016, BWell began operating an unlocked CSU located on the County's Calle Real campus, adjacent to the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) in Santa Barbara. At the time, the funding available to build out and fund the CSU could not be used for locked facilities. Therefore, the CSU was established as an unlocked intensive crisis intervention facility. The original funding restriction has since been lifted, allowing for the CSU to now be designated and operated as a secured facility able to accommodate those on 5150 holds. Although built to accommodate eight crisis beds, in 2016 the facility was staffed and operated to accommodate four beds. The impact of COVID-19, as well as ongoing staffing challenges at the PHF led to the temporary closure of the CSU in May 2022.

Competitive Procurement to Select CSU Provider

On August 29, 2023, the Board authorized BWell to issue a request for proposals (RFP) in order to contract out the operation and service delivery of the CSU to a qualified community-based organization. The RFP was issued on September 1, 2023. The RFP stipulated that the designation of the CSU would be converted from an unlocked to a locked unit and would operate eight crisis beds. This change from four crisis beds to eight crisis beds will immediately address the County's need for more locked acute beds. The RFP provided that the contract period would be from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

A Notice of Intent to Award the contract to Crestwood was issued on October 16, 2023. Crestwood is an experienced provider that has successfully demonstrated its ability to provide effective crisis stabilization services, including the hiring and retention of adequate staffing, consistently high rates of client utilization, and efficient fiscal management. The Crestwood CSU FY 23-27 contract will be brought to the Board for approval at its April 23, 2024 meeting.

Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) Facility Designation

BWell is requesting that the County and the State of California designate the CSU as a 5150 facility. The designation will allow Crestwood staff to conduct evaluation and treatment to individuals who, as a result of a mental health disorder, have been deemed a danger to others, or to self, or gravely disabled.

County LPS designated facilities are mental health treatment facilities that are designated by the County for evaluation and treatment, approved by the DHCS, and licensed as a health facility as defined in subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 1250 or 1250.2 of the Health and Safety Code or is certified by the State Department of Health Care Services to provide mental health treatment. A designated facility may include, but is not limited to, a licensed psychiatric hospital, a licensed psychiatric health facility, and certified crisis stabilization units.

The CSU, once LPS designated, will be able to accommodate a wider range of individuals for crisis stabilization for both voluntary and involuntary stays. The CSU in operation prior to its temporary closure due to staffing shortages was not an LPS facility and as such was not locked and could not accept

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individuals on involuntary holds. As an LPS designated facility it will now be able to take an additional population (individuals on involuntary 5150 holds) and therefore will maintain a greater census. In order to have this program certified by DHCS, it must be approved as a designated 5150 facility by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. Therefore, BWell is requesting approval to designate the CSU as an LPS facility. This step will provide continuity of care as well as aftercare connectivity with the County Mental Health Plan providers and Managed Care Plan so that all clients are successfully connected to healthcare follow-up.

The site certification process is a collaboration between BWell's quality assurance department and DHCS to confirm compliance with LPS requirements. Per policy, BWell will conduct an onsite re-assessment during the initial three months of operation to ensure the facility is meeting all necessary requirements. In addition, BWell will conduct an annual site visit thereafter to continue monitoring and ensure compliance.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts No financial cost is incurred for LPS

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the Resolution and Agreement to Melanie Johnson at mejohanson@sbcbbwell.org and bbwellcontractsstaff@sbcbbwell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: BWell CSU LPS Designation Resolution
Attachment B: BWell CSU DHCS LPS Certification Letter Draft

Authored by:

M. Johnson