



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 19, 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: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness - Renewal Contractor on Payroll (COP) Agreements FY 22-23 Fred Berge, M.D. and Mary Pat Sweeney, R.N.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Contractor on Payroll Agreement with **Fred Berge, M.D.** to provide psychiatric services for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed **\$132,912** (Attachment A);
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Contractor on Payroll Agreement with **Mary Pat Sweeney, R.N.** to provide “as needed” nursing services for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed **\$48,476** (Attachment B); and
- C. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP). The above-referenced contracts comply with the Santa Barbara County Contractor on Payroll Policy, approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 20, 2015. Approval of the above-referenced contract will ensure the continued provision of critical mental health and related services during FY 22-23.

Background:

BWell has experienced continuing difficulty recruiting and retaining psychiatrists, qualified Registered Nurses, and other individuals who are certified and licensed to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services to the area. The pandemic has only exacerbated the challenge to hire qualified staff. Although the County maintains ongoing recruitment of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, and individuals certified and licensed to provide ancillary mental health services, it rarely produces enough qualified candidates to meet departmental needs. COPs have helped to bridge the gap to provide needed mental health treatment capacity.

Fred Berge, M.D. provides psychiatric services to South County Crisis Services, Santa Barbara AB109 Clinic, pursuant to an MOU between the Departments of Behavioral Wellness and Probation, and the De La Vina Clinic. Psychiatric services include development, review, revision, and approval of client assessments, evaluations, and treatment plans; prescription and administration of psychiatric medications as needed; assistance to clients with symptom management and development of personal coping skills; medication education for clients and families; and training, education and support for BWell staff and multidisciplinary team members. Dr. Berge will provide a staff position of 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

Mary Pat Sweeney, R.N., provides psychiatric nursing services as needed at the PHF. Psychiatric nursing services, under the supervision of PHF administration, involve delivery of ongoing and comprehensive care to patients hospitalized at the PHF, including admission assessments, provision of medications, and comprehensive psychiatric nursing, in addition to functioning as a team leader for the shift. In addition, she is responsible for entering complete and detailed patient histories and nursing assessments into patient health records, as well as taking orders from physicians and implementing them. She also identifies chief complaints and develops the initial treatment plan, initiates patient education and emergency interventions with clients, and counsels patients and their families regarding matters pertaining to patient stays at the PHF. Ms. Sweeney will provide a staff position of 0.46 FTE.

The attached COP agreements meet the requirements of Government Code section 7522.56, limiting the maximum number of hours and the maximum allowable hourly rate payable to COPs who are retirees of the County and who perform work as a contractor for the County. Government Code sections 53260 and 53243.2 limit the amount of cash settlement in the event of termination of the agreements, requiring reimbursement from the COP of any cash settlement related to the termination if the COP is convicted of a crime involving an abuse of their position within the County.

Performance Measure:

1. Clients maintain safe and stable living environments;
2. Decrease hospitalizations;
3. Increase access to care; and
4. Decrease number of incarcerations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Berge FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>Sweeney FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>Total COP Cost FY 22-23</u>
General Fund			
State	\$66,456.00	\$24,238.00	\$90,694.00
Federal	\$66,456.00	\$24,238.00	\$90,694.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$132,912.00	\$ 48,476.00	\$181,388.00

Narrative: The above referenced contracts are funded by a combination of State and Federal revenue. The funding sources have been included in the FY 22-23 Proposed Budget contingent on Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future Medi-Cal audit disallowances. However, BWell provides training to the Contractors to minimize financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract to dmorales@sbcbwell.org, bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbwell.org, and Stefan Brewer, Employment and Workforce Planning Division, Human Resources Department at SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Berge FY 22-23 BC COP
- Attachment B: Sweeney FY 22-23 BC COP

Authored by:

D. Morales