



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: April 7, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director 
Department of Behavioral Wellness

Contact: Carla Cross, MA, LMFT, ATR-BC, Manager of Clinical Training and Special
Projects, Department of Behavioral Wellness

SUBJECT: First Amendment to the Services Agreement with Events Enterprises, Inc. for
Planning and Event Coordination Services for Fiscal Year 2024-26

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) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (BC 24-184) with **Events Enterprises, Inc.** (not a local vendor) to update certain standard provisions for compliance with state requirements or to clarify the obligations of the parties, add an additional statement of work for the Southern Counties Regional Partnerships (SCRIP) Peer Conference 2026, and increase the contract amount by \$200,000 for a revised, total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$847,850**, inclusive of \$323,925 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and \$523,925 for FY 2025-26, with no change to the contract term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026; and
- b) Determine that the above-recommended action is not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a governmental funding mechanism and/or fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Board of Supervisors is requested to authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to the Agreement with **Events Enterprises, Inc.** (Events) to update certain State and federal terms to ensure compliance with new and updated provisions and expand the scope of work to include May 2026 Peer Conference, ensuring additional coordination and planning services for the Southern Counties Regional Partnerships (SCRCP). This amendment will increase the contract by \$200,000, for a revised total maximum contract amount of \$847,850. The additional funds will support costs associated with the May 2026 Peer Conference, including hotel accommodation, food and beverage, audiovisual services, honorariums, coordinator fees, and other related expenses. There is no change to the contract term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Behavioral Wellness Department (BWell) to continue to fund these SCRCP Conferences that help expand California's public mental health workforce and support individuals with severe mental illness.

Discussion:

Events provides planning and event coordination services for the Southern Counties Regional Partnerships (SCRCP). To strengthen the competency of participating County staff, SCRCP conferences present targeted strategies that support workforce engagement, skill development, and effective intervention practices. Additionally, Events will coordinate the Peer Conference scheduled for May 2026. The purpose of this conference is to strengthen and expand California's public mental health workforce by increasing awareness, recruitment, and retention of a diverse and qualified workforce equipped to serve individuals with severe mental illness.

BWell requests to amend this Agreement to update certain standard provisions to ensure compliance with current state requirements, expand the program services to include planning and coordination for the May 2026 Peer Conference. As a result of this added program and using available Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) grant funding, the total maximum contract amount increased from \$647,850 to \$847,850.

Background:

Five Regional Partnerships were established statewide under the Workforce Education and Training (WET) program. The Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRCP) is a collaborative partnership of mental health departments representing Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Imperial, Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura, as well as the Tri-City region of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona.

On December 2, 2014, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors authorized and approved an agreement with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and BWell to serve as the fiscal and administrative agent for SCRCP and execute the initial MOU with the SCRCP counties to implement WET initiatives. In May 2020, BWell was nominated by SCRCP to continue as the fiscal and administrative agent for the OSHPD grant through 2026. On January 12, 2021, this agreement was modified and extended to incorporate additional OSHPD grant funds for SCRCP through Grant Agreement No. 20-10018 for a new total grant funding of \$15,340,829 and extended the contract term to include the period of February 15, 2021, through June 30, 2026.

In July 2021, Assembly Bill (AB) 133, Section 31, added §127002 to the Health and Safety code specifying that "Any reference to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development shall be deemed a reference to the Department of Health Care Access and Information." Accordingly, any reference to OSHPD within the Agreement is deemed reference to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

As the fiscal and administrative agent for the SCRP through June 30, 2026, the County is responsible for negotiating and monitoring contracts and projects during this period to achieve the Five-Year Plan goals established by OSHPD for 2021-2026. These goals include:

- **Goal #1:** Increase the number of diverse, qualified individuals in the public mental health system workforce to remedy the shortage of qualified individuals to provide services to address severe mental illness.
- **Goal #2:** Expand the capacity of California's incumbent public mental health workforce to meet California's diverse and dynamic needs.
- **Goal #3:** Facilitate a robust statewide, regional, and local infrastructure to develop the public mental health workforce.

On behalf of SCRP, BWell has worked with Events since September 2016. On November 5, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the FY 2024-26 Agreement with Events (BC 24-184) for the provision of planning and overall event coordination.

Performance Measure:

Events completed all coordination tasks and activities for all three SCRP conferences for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25. The intended outcome of the SCRP conferences is to increase and improve the quality of care provided to individuals, families, and stakeholders served by SCRP member agencies. Participant evaluations were collected following all events with attendee ratings high in response to conference objectives being met. Across three (3) conferences, staff demonstrated enhanced competency in cultural responsiveness, clinical supervision knowledge and skills, and strategies for interventions and engagement.

The desired outcomes of the May 2026 Peer Conference are the following:

- Strengthen and expand the public mental health workforce by increasing awareness, recruitment, and retention of diverse, qualified professionals equipped to serve individuals with severe mental illness;
- Enhance the skills, knowledge, and capacity of California's incumbent public mental health workforce through peer-informed training, collaboration, and shared best practices that reflect the state's diverse and evolving needs; and
- Foster a strong statewide, regional, and local infrastructure for public mental health workforce development by promoting partnerships, peer networking, and coordinated strategies across systems.

These performance measures support the Five-Year Plan goals listed above by strengthening regional coordination, workforce development infrastructure, and collaborative planning efforts that expand and diversify the public mental health workforce while enhancing the capacity of existing professionals to meet California's evolving behavioral health needs.

Contract Renewals:

Performance Outcomes

Events was selected to provide planning and overall event coordination services due to their unique skills and knowledge that is relevant to the needs of this grant. They have consistently provided these services for the annual conferences through this grant and have always been within budget and able to provide a high-quality event. Their performance outcomes are measured through reports, meetings, and regular evaluations completed by participants.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Total
State	\$323,925	\$523,925	\$847,850
Total	\$323,925	\$523,925	\$847,850

Behavioral Wellness has a total budget of \$15,340,829 to administer and implement the SCRP’s Five-Year Plan goals established by OSHPD for 2021-2026. The original grant amount has been used over the past five (5) years to fund multiple projects and contracts. This contract with Events will utilize \$847,850 of the designated grant funds set aside for SCRP regional programs to achieve the Five-Year Plan goals. This amount represents only the portion of the grant allocated to this specific contract and the expenditure on these services has been approved by the nine (9) partner-member counties. The funding for the Events agreement does not impact any other County funding or budget. The Events budget for the Strategic Planning Session and two (2) Partnership Conferences include planning and coordination, speaker’s fees, hotel accommodations, meeting rooms, banquet fees, printing, and other related event costs.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above Amendment and one (1) Minute Order to sarriaga@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Events Enterprises FY 2024-26 Board Contract First Amendment

Attachment B – Events Enterprises FY 2024-26 Board Contract BC 24-184 executed

Contact Information:

Svetlana Arriaga
 Contracts Analyst
sarriaga@sbcbswell.org