



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: May 24, 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: Chris Ribeiro, Chief Financial Officer
Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Institution for Mental Disease Contract Renewal - Aurora Vista del Mar, LLC Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2025

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 and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Aurora Vista del Mar, LLC** (not a local vendor), an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) for the provision of Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital services, for a total contract maximum amount not to exceed **\$1,200,000** (\$400,000 annually) for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E of the Agreement, all without altering the Maximum Contract Amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- C. Determine that these activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The above item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services with Aurora Vista Del Mar, LLC (AVDM) for Fiscal Year 22-25 for the Maximum Contract Amount of \$1,200,000 (\$400,000 annually) for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 for the provision of psychiatric inpatient hospital services. Additionally, part of this request is to delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E of the Agreement, all without altering the Maximum Contract Amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of services, including inpatient treatment services to best meet the needs of individuals with severe mental illness. IMDs are facilities that include psychiatric hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental illness, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services. Due to the Federal IMD Exclusion, these services are not reimbursable by Medi-Cal for clients between the ages of 21 and 65 years old. There are a limited number of these highly structured residential treatment services in California and none are located in Santa Barbara County.

BWell examines the current caseload and historical use of IMD facilities in order to project the following year's contract amounts within Behavioral Wellness' budget constraints. Behavioral Wellness contracts with IMDs that are licensed as Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities with Special Treatment Patches, and Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers. Due to limited bed availability at each IMD, Behavioral Wellness contracts with a number of IMDs throughout the State.

Aurora Vista del Mar, located in Ventura, it is an Acute Psychiatric Hospital exclusively for clients with emergency mental health needs who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others or are gravely disabled pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150 or who meet medical necessity criteria, as defined in the California Code of Regulations Title 9 § 1820.205. When the County's 16-bed Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) is full, Santa Barbara County clients are placed at other out-of-county Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, primarily AVDM.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to continue to provide mandated mental health services.

Performance Measure:

The program goals are to assist clients in their mental health recovery process and develop the skills necessary to lead independent, healthy and productive lives in the community.

- A. Of those who discharged (#dc = denominator): $\leq 15\%$ who transitioned to a higher level of care.
- B. Of those who discharged (#dc = denominator): $\geq 85\%$ who transitioned to a lower level of care or graduated/discharges because care is no longer needed or medical necessity is not met.
- C. Incidents requiring a higher level of supervision: $\leq 5\%$.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

AVDM began providing services for BWell in April 2022 and the quarterly report will not be available until July 2022.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 24-25 Cost:</u>	<u>Total Cost FY 22-25</u>
General Fund				
State	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,200,000
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,200,000

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State funds. Funding for this item is included in the FY 2022-2025 proposed budget. Subsequent funding will be included in the FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 Proposed Budget and funds are contingent upon Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded by State resources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments. BWell contracts include language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County. There is a risk that the number of contracted IMD beds may increase beyond what the Department has projected. In this case, the Department will return to the Board of Supervisors to request an increase to the contract maximums where needed.

Special Instructions:

Please send one (1) complete copy of the executed contract and one (1) minute order to dmorales@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: AVDM FY 22-25 BC

Authored by:

D. Morales