



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: Sheriff
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: June 16, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Bill Brown, Sheriff – Coroner
Contact Info: Anthony Espinoza, Lieutenant (805) 681-4252
SUBJECT: California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG)/Wellpath annual report for healthcare services at Sheriff detention facilities.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the annual report regarding the Agreement for Medical Services with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG); and
- b) Determine that the approval of the recommended action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b) (5), since the recommended action is a government administrative activity which does not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

CFMG/Wellpath currently provides healthcare services (medical and mental health) to the inmate population housed at the Sheriff's Santa Barbara Main Jail and soon those within the Northern Branch Jail. On September 17, 2019, the Board of Supervisors accepted California Forensic Medical Group's (CFMG) second annual report for healthcare services at the Sheriff's Office. In October of 2018, CFMG joined with Correct Care Solutions (CCS). CFMG's parent company, Correctional Medical Group Companies (CMGC) became Wellpath. Although the newly formed parent company is known as Wellpath, CFMG and CCS operate as separate entities with shared policies and

procedures. In California, only entities owned solely by physicians are permitted to practice medicine. For this reason, complex healthcare organizations in California typically are organized with a physician-owned entity to provide care, and a management company to manage the business aspects. In this case, CFMG is the professional medical corporation, and Wellpath (formerly CMGC) is the management organization. Thus, our agreement with CFMG remains intact and will remain with CFMG for the term of this agreement even though CFMG is now referred to as Wellpath.

The following key contract components are discussed in Wellpath's annual report (Attachment A):

- NCCHC Accreditation Update
- Service Level Agreements/Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- Mandatory Reporting/Health Service Report (HSR)
- Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Oversight

Background:

As was discussed in the annual report presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 17, 2019, changes to the NCCHC adult standards occurred in April of 2018, and these changes were not minor. Upon reviewing these changes, a re-audit needed to occur. After the CFMG and CCS merger in October of 2018, a re-audit occurred in February of 2019, which produced more items that needed to be addressed. Therefore, a NCCHC update in January of 2019, would have been unsuccessful had we pursued accreditation at that time. Upon reviewing the results of the in-house audits, the necessary changes were made and the Sheriff's Office was scheduled for the NCCHC initial formal audit in late March of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this audit has been postponed and will be rescheduled when permitted. It should be noted that one of the key projects to meet several NCCHC standards was the creation of a Health Services Handbook. To our knowledge it is the first of its kind in the correctional healthcare sector. We are unaware of any other county, which Wellpath is contracted with, who provide such a tool to the inmate population. This is further discussed in the annual report.

In collaboration with the CEO's Office, Behavioral Wellness, Public Health, CFMG/Wellpath, Probation and the Sheriff's Office, we were successful in negotiating an amended agreement with CFMG/Wellpath for healthcare services to encompass both the Main Jail and North Branch Jail. We are excited as this will allow for expanded services in north and south county.

As originally championed by the Sheriff's Office Dr. Cherylynn Lee, the Sheriff's Office started a Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) program which is also discussed in the annual report. You will be pleased to see the growth of this program and know Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Jail is on the front lines of this war on opiate addiction, our Medication-Assisted Treatment (or MAT) program was created to aid these patients with opioid/substance use disorder.

Closing:

CFMG/Wellpath, and the Sheriff's Office will return to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days after July 1st, 2021, for the next annual report. This will continue to allow the presentation to occur after budget sessions and on Fiscal Year statistics.

As you can see in the annual report, the partnership between CFMG/Wellpath and the Sheriff's Office continues to grow. As with the previous year, this is due to the continued dedication and collaboration between all of the involved County departments and numerous community groups. Collaboration continues to be instrumental in our success. This collaboration has allowed us to not only develop a

system of enhanced healthcare consistent with or exceeding community standards but it has also allowed us to develop long-term relationships which ensure future successes.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

- A. Wellpath Annual Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities Report 2019-2020
- B. Sheriff's Main Jail Pharmaceutical Statistics

Authored by:

Anthony Espinoza, Lieutenant