



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: July 1, 2025
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: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness
**SUBJECT: Renewal of Mental Health Staffing Services Agreement with Barton Medical, Inc.
for FY 2025-27**

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 **Barton Medical, Inc.** ("Barton Medical") (not a local vendor) for the provision of temporary medical staffing services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$2,200,000** inclusive of \$1,100,000 per fiscal year for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027;
- b) Regarding the above Recommended Action, delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to (i) suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement; (ii) make immaterial changes as well as add positions and/or approve rate changes not to exceed 10% of the rate currently stated in the Exhibit B-1 per Section 26 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;
- c) 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

mechanisms and/or fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The above referenced item is on the agenda to request authorization for the Behavioral Wellness Department (BWell) to renew the temporary medical staffing contract with Barton Medical, Inc. ("Barton Medical") for a total contract maximum amount not to exceed \$2,200,000 for FY 2025-27.

Discussion:

Barton Medical provides temporary medical staff including psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants to the Psychiatric Health Facility, BWell clinics, and other BWell programs as needed.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to adequately staff facilities temporarily to deliver uninterrupted care and mandated mental health and ancillary services.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, including psychiatric and nursing services at its County facilities. Across the nation there is an ongoing shortage of psychiatric and nursing services. BWell has experienced ongoing challenges that mirror the national challenges of attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists and other mental health medical professionals to work at our facilities. BWell currently uses locum tenens clinical professionals as needed to temporarily fill needed positions to perform mandated mental health and ancillary services at our inpatient and outpatient facilities.

Barton Medical has been providing temporary medical staffing to BWell since FY 2015-16.

Performance Measure:

BWell is currently utilizing temporary medical professionals provided by Barton Medical. These professionals are providing services throughout the County at BWell clinics and other BWell programs. The professionals are all performing on par with the County's civil service providers. They provide services according to generally accepted practices; participate in staff meetings, including medical staff meetings where appropriate; psychiatrists are part of medical staff meeting peer review; and all professionals respond appropriately to communications and clinical feedback.

Contract Renewal:

With any contractor providing temporary staffing services, there is a risk that temporary personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in the performance of assigned duties. BWell may cancel an assignment for cause or convenience, and the contractor provides professional liability insurance for the professionals to mitigate these risks. In addition, the County pays only the contractor's fees when the County utilizes a healthcare professional referred by the contractor. There are no monthly fees attached to the Agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding for Barton Medical's temporary medical professionals will come from Medi-Cal (federal) and MHSA (State) funding sources. Costs for these services will be recouped by a combination of services billing and indirect cost reimbursement.

Barton Medical

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Total
Federal	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$1,100,000
State	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$1,100,000
Total	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$2,200,000

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above contract and one (1) Minute Order to cshorb@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Barton Medical FY 2025-27

Contact Information:

Chris Shorb
Contract Analyst
cshorb@sbcbswell.org