



**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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: June 25, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Tanja Heitman, Assistant County Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:

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SUBJECT: Report Out on Jail Healthcare Study Session

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Treasurer-Tax Collector Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a report-out on the Jail Healthcare Study Session held on April 3, 2024 at Direct Relief in Goleta; and
- b) Determine pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive and file a report-out on the Jail Healthcare Study Session held on April 3, 2024. In today’s report, staff has compiled and summarized the feedback received from the community at the Study Session. The Study Session, with a report out to the Board on the session, was directed by Supervisors on December 5, 2023.

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Background:

On December 5, 2023, your Board received and approved responses to Grand Jury report findings related to the County’s adult custodial facilities and directed staff to conduct a publicly noticed study session prior to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Workshops. The Study Session was designed to provide a forum for community feedback on issues raised in the Grand Jury reports and in the December 5th Board hearing, related to medical and behavioral healthcare services in the County’s jail facilities. Additionally, on December 5, 2023, your Board directed staff to expand the Public Health Department (PHD) monitoring of contracted healthcare provider Wellpath’s provision of services at the County’s adult and juvenile detention facilities.

On March 19, 2024, your Board approved staff’s recommendation to add dedicated clinical staff within PHD that would be assigned at the jails/juvenile hall to provide healthcare oversight and compliance monitoring. The Sheriff’s Office sought to continue as the Wellpath contract administrator. It was agreed that with the increased level of monitoring and compliance resources provided by PHD, the Sheriff’s Office and Probation would continue to be responsible for the Wellpath contract administration, while working in close partnership with PHD staff toward the ultimate goal of improving the provision of medical and mental health services within the County jail and juvenile hall facilities.

Discussion:

The Jail Healthcare Study Session was held on April 3, 2024 at Direct Relief in Goleta, and included presentations by County departments and community groups focused around three discussion areas:

- 1) Medical and behavioral healthcare
- 2) Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for Custody staff
- 3) Data sharing

Additionally, a facilitated question and answer period was held following each of the three discussion areas, where community members were encouraged to share feedback.



The Study Session was attended by approximately 120 community members and County staff, with feedback received on a variety of related topics. Due to the volume and variety of feedback received, not every individual question and comment can be captured within this report; however, additional feedback

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will be addressed in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section to be added to the [County's Criminal Justice Initiatives webpage](#).

Jail Healthcare Services Contract

Below are community areas of interest related to the jail healthcare services contract.

- 1) County oversight of healthcare services through PHD and BWell that ensures contractual staffing and service requirements are met. Accurate and complete record-keeping that will enable oversight efforts to identify strengths and shortfalls in healthcare delivery to jail residents.
- 2) Accountability from Wellpath in accordance with the healthcare services contract for invoice credits when staffing shortfalls occur.
- 3) Accountability from Wellpath for prompt and accurate intake assessments.
- 4) Healthcare services delivery that meets medically accepted standards of care, with significant contractual penalties if identified deficiencies are not promptly corrected.
- 5) Training of all Wellpath clinical staff in crisis intervention.
- 6) Referrals and "warm hand-offs" for individuals released from custody to community-based resources; issuance of prescribed medications by Wellpath to bridge the gap.

Sheriff's Office Operations

Below are community areas of interest related to the Sheriff's Office operations.

- 1) Supporting jail diversions as a priority to safely reduce the jail population, which lessens the volume of jail healthcare needs, improves services, and reduces healthcare staffing needs.
- 2) Expanding Alternative Sentencing, in particular through the Electronic Monitoring program, to support safe jail population reduction.
- 3) Prioritizing transfers of jail residents to their medical/mental health appointments and ensuring those appointments occur in a confidential setting.
- 4) Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and improving monitoring to mitigate in-custody opioid overdoses.
- 5) Prioritizing retention of Custody Deputies and collaborating with other County agencies to alleviate staffing shortages in the jails.

Related Justice System Improvements

Below are community areas of interest related to other justice system improvements.

- 1) Facilitating data sharing among health and human services departments and criminal justice departments in the most efficient manner without violating State or federal privacy and/or confidentiality requirements. Expanding data sharing to achieve treatment and continuity of care improvements.
- 2) Improving coordination with system partners, including through the mobile crisis benefit, treatment beds, discharge planning, warm handoffs, and diversion from jail, to support safe reduction of the jail population.

Conclusion

Under the leadership of the County Executive Office, regular meetings of the criminal justice partners, health and human service agencies, and Wellpath occur in order to coordinate efforts to improve healthcare and re-entry services at the jail facilities. The jail staff have made significant modifications to their operations and policies in response to community input, Board direction, and collaborative engagement with the partner departments. Through monthly in-person meetings, the group is able to respond to emerging concerns and confront communication issues directly as well as proactively plan for

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improvements. Many of the areas of interest raised during the Study Session were consistent with the efforts already underway and it was affirming to those involved to recognize the alignment.

The majority of the items raised at the Study Session related to the jail healthcare services contract, have been or will be addressed, and some of these items are discussed in more detail in the response to the Grand Jury report on Wellpath services that is also before your Board today. Moreover, further system improvements will be addressed through the implementation of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), which will expand the availability of Medi-Cal healthcare services to individuals in custody and soon to be released. To address additional feedback not able to be captured in the above report, a FAQ section will be added to the County's website. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is currently in the process of expanding its data dashboard to capture additional data points related to the behavioral health population in the jails.

Special Instructions:

None.

Attachments:

N/A

Authored by:

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cc:

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Toni Navarro, Behavioral Wellness Director
Mouhanad Hammami, Public Health Director