



**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: October 14, 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(s): Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness
Contact: John Winckler, MA, LMFT, Branch Chief of
Specialty Programs, Department of Behavioral Wellness
SUBJECT: First Amendment to the Services Agreement with Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families for Mental Health 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 with **Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families** (not a local vendor) (**BC 24-010**) to update certain standard terms in compliance with state and federal requirements; to update staff caseload, program capacity and staffing requirements to the In-Home Therapeutic Program and the Senate Bill 163/Wraparound Services Program; to terminate the Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) Program, effective September 30, 2025; to update program budget and service type requirements; and to reduce the contract amount by \$1,462,335 for a revised, total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$7,776,355** in Mental Health (MH) funding (\$4,619,345 for FY 2024-25, and \$3,157,010 for FY 2025-26), with no change to the contract term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026;
 - i) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness' issuance of a Notice of Intent to Partially Terminate Agreement (Attachment C);
 - ii) Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness' issuance of a Notice of Partial Termination of Agreement (Attachment D);

- iii) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to take actions necessary for the wind-down of the Agreement in relevant part, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- b) Determine that the above-recommended actions are 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 actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

These items are on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors' approval to execute a First Amendment to the Agreement for Services with Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families, to update certain standard terms and conditions and to update program budget and rates. Additionally, per Casa Pacifica's request (for budgetary reasons), this Amendment would terminate the Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) Program as of September 30, 2025. The SAFTY Program is a mobile crisis response program for children, youth and their families throughout Santa Barbara County, operating a crisis line for quick and accessible specialized crisis intervention, in-home support, and guidance to appropriate services for program members and families.

This Amendment also updates staff caseload, program capacity ratios and staffing definitions within the In-Home Therapeutic Program, which include Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) and In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS), and SB 163/Wraparound Services, and reduces the total maximum contract amount by \$1,462,335, for a revised total maximum contract amount of **\$7,776,355**, with no change to the contract term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to continue to deliver mandated services to children and youth with SED.

Discussion:

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families provides mandated mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) via several programs throughout Santa Barbara County. The Notice of Intent to Partially Terminate as well as the Notice of Partial Termination of the Agreement with Casa Pacifica for FY 2024-26 is being requested to end program services for the Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) Program effective September 30, 2025. The termination of this program is by request of the Contractor in consideration of budget reevaluations. The SAFTY Program is a mobile crisis response program for children, youth and their families throughout Santa Barbara County, operating a crisis line for quick and accessible specialized crisis intervention, in-home support, and linkage to appropriate services for program members and families. Members of affected programs will continue to have access to BWell's crisis line and will be treated via BWell's Crisis Services for the provision of mental health mobile crisis response.

Additional changes to the staff caseload, program capacity and staffing definition terms of the In-Home Therapeutic Program and SB 163/Wraparound Service reflect adjustments requested by the Contractor upon completion of a staffing analysis by Casa Pacifica. The number of wraparound spots available to Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Probation will be reduced with these staffing changes, which will increase demand on BWell youth Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services for highest acuity members.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers including community-based organizations (CBOs). CBOs provide various specialty mental health services to adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and children and youth with SED.

Casa Pacifica provides mandated mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible children with SED countywide, such as therapy, rehabilitation, residential treatment, shelter beds, and ancillary services. They provide intensive individual services through TBS, IHBS, Wraparound services to keep children in their homes (Wraparound), and group home placement in their Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).

On June 25, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved to enter into an Agreement for Services for Independent Contractor with Casa Pacifica (BC 24-010), for the provision of children and youth mental health services, for a total maximum contract amount of \$9,238,690, inclusive of \$4,619,345 per fiscal year, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. The requested First Amendment will reduce the total maximum contract amount by \$1,462,335, for a revised total maximum contract amount of **\$7,776,355**, with no change to the contract term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026

Performance Measure:

The FY 2024-26 Agreement contains performance measures to monitor the implementation and improve staff proficiency. Program goals and measures can be found in Exhibit E of the Agreement.

Mental Health Goals:

1. Reducing mental health and substance abuse symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care.
2. Assisting members in their mental health recovery process by developing the skills necessary to lead healthy and productive lives in the community.
3. Providing mental health and/or substance use services for children and their families in order to prevent out-of-home and out-of-county placements.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) School-based Suicide Prevention Goals:

1. Increase number of students that receive suicide prevention trainings.
2. Increase number of school staff and others who work with youth that receive Suicide Risk Assessment Training.
3. Increase Awareness of suicide prevention and behavioral health resources available in the school/community for students and parents.

Family Urgent Response (FURS) Goals:

1. Respond to calls timely and effectively to de-escalate potential crises.
2. Maintain youth stability in the community.

Contract Renewals:

The following performance outcome data captures Casa Pacifica's performance for all four quarters of FY 2024-25.

1. **Mental Health Symptom Acuity:** TBS and SAFTY programs met all goals. Wrap-Around met all but 1 goal (Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) completion rate; Goal was 95%. Achieved 83%).

2. **Stabilization in the Community:** TBS and SAFTY programs met all goals. Wrap-Around did well with stable housing and engagement in purposeful activities but did not meet the goals for discharge. This is attributed to higher acuity clients being referred; given this trend, BWell will consider whether it would be appropriate to adjust this goal to better align with the population's acuity.
3. **Family Urgent Response System (FURS):** FURS met or exceeded all but one goal. Timely response to calls; Goal: 95% calls responded to within 1 hour; In one quarter, 1 of 3 calls were timely, which reduced the quarterly average. Because the total for that quarter was low, it weighed more strongly in the quarterly average calculation. Across all calls for the fiscal year, the average with timely response was 93%. Therefore, all goals have been functionally met.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Total
State	\$591,485	\$328,160	\$919,645
DSS	\$42,600	\$42,600	\$85,200
Medi-Cal Patient Revenue	\$3,985,260	\$2,786,250	\$6,771,510
Total	\$4,619,345	\$3,157,010	\$7,776,355

The above-referenced Agreement is funded by a combination of State and Federal funds. With the transition to California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Payment Reform, the ongoing program cost will primarily be funded with fee-for-service Medi-Cal Patient Revenue with Realignment and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding covering the local match. The Department of Social Services (DSS) also contributes \$42,600 annually to fund the Wraparound program. The amount of Federal funds received for specialty mental health services is contingent on the client's aid code and the State-issued rate for the service.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) copy of the executed Amendment to Sara Hernandez at sahernandez@sbcbswell.org and to the BWell Contracts Branch at bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Casa Pacifica FY 2024-26 (BC 24-010) Amendment 1

Attachment B – Casa Pacifica FY 2024-26 Board Contract (BC 24-010), Executed

Attachment C – Notice of Intent to Partially Terminate Agreement (BC 24-010)

Attachment D – Notice of Partial Termination of Agreement (BC 24-010)

Contact Information:

Sara Hernandez

Contracts Analyst

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