



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: August 29, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director
Contact Info: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner (805) 681-4290
Alice Perez, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, Programs & Services Manager (805) 681-4239

SUBJECT: Department of Health Care Services California Advancing and Innovating Medical Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Pre-Release Grant Award to Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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) Authorize, ratify, and approve the Sheriff, or designee, to accept the Grant Agreement as outlined in the "California Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Planning and Capacity Building Program Acknowledgement of Grant Terms for the grant award in the amount of \$557,874 from Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) with a period of performance from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024; and
- b) Accept the Providing Access and Transforming Health Justice Involved Planning and Capacity Building Program Grant Award; and
- c) Find the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (b)(4), in that it involves governmental funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara County of Department of Social Services (DSS), successfully submitted its application for grant funding awarded in Round 2 of the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved capacity building program. This funding will support implementation processes, protocols, and IT system

modifications that are necessary to initiate new, or modify existing, Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes. Grant funds can be used for investments in personnel, infrastructure, capacity, technology systems that are needed to effectuate Medi-Cal pre-release enrollment and suspension processes.

Background:

CalAIM is a multi-year initiative led by DHCS that aims to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Medi-Cal beneficiaries by implementing delivery system and payment reforms across the program. The Justice-Involved initiative specifically, allows eligible Californians who are incarcerated to enroll in Medi-Cal and receive a targeted set of services in the 90 days before their release. Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) anticipates establishing eligibility and enrolling an average of 30-45 individuals each 90-day pre-release period at each of its two facilities: The Northern Branch Jail in Santa Maria, and the Main Jail in Santa Barbara. This initiative aims to ensure continuity of health care coverage and services between the time they are incarcerated and when they are released. It also provides people who are reentering the community with the prescribed medications and durable medical equipment (DME) they need, along with access to programs and services to support this important transition. CalAIM leverages Medi-Cal as a tool to help address many of the complex challenges facing California's most vulnerable residents and targets social determinants of health and reduction of health disparities and inequities. The broad goals of the CalAIM Justice Involved Initiative are to:

1. Move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility.
2. Improve quality outcomes, reduce health disparities, and drive delivery system transformation and innovation through value-based initiatives, system modernization, and payment reform.

The California DHCS reviewed the joint Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office-Department of Social Services PATH II Justice-Involved Grant request and awarded Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) the amount of \$576,872.38. This funding will be used to hire two full-time Social Worker positions and two Administrative Office Professional (AOP) I positions to support the implementation process and establish protocols. The grant will fund tablets needed to determine eligibility, enable efficient enrollment, and ensure Medi-Cal coverage upon reentry into the community.

The CalAIM Justice Involved Initiative includes several provisions to improve access to, and quality of health care for justice involved populations. Effective January 1, 2023, CalAIM required all counties to implement a Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process to ensure all inmates released from County Correctional Facilities receive timely access to Medi-Cal services, if otherwise eligible. CalAIM requires all counties to enroll eligible individuals 90 days prior to release to ensure they receive pre-release services. SBSO applied for the DHCS PATH Justice Involved Grant to support the statement CalAIM Medi-Cal Pre-Enrollment Initiative on March 9, 2023, and received funding award letter on April 24, 2023. This funding supports implementation and capacity-building to achieve compliance with the mandated goals:

1. To effectuate pre-release (90-day) Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes.
2. To work together with Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services to identify the best way to implement a county pre-release Medi-Cal application process.
3. To transmit the Medi-Cal application, cover letter, and release of information form to County Social Services Department using effective and efficient processes to share information

electronically, including via secure email; secure shared filed environment; or secure file transfer.

4. Start the process to coordinate with DSS to unsuspend coverage or re-enroll individuals in Medi-Cal within 90 days prior to release, and as close to intake as possible for individuals with stays less than 90 days.
5. Collect, store, and exchange information on incarceration and release dates to facilitate unsuspension between SBSO and DSS.
6. Develop and provide security clearances/protocols and safety assurances for staff assisting with eligibility and enrollment who may not have experience working in correctional settings (if needed), and the enrolling individuals, and facilitating their ingress, egress, and movement throughout the correctional setting as needed to assist with these functions, including providing adequate space and technology.
7. Identify and maintain a list of the names, emails, and phone numbers for key points of contact with DSS who can assist with troubleshooting Medi-Cal application questions and sending follow-up information as needed.
8. Develop a cover letter template that is to be submitted with the pre-release application information to DSS to ensure applications are identified as pre-release applications and processed correctly; and
9. Identify private settings (e.g., rooms for confidential attorney visits) where correctional staff or others can help individuals complete the information needed to enroll in Medi-Cal.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$391,400.00	\$185,500.00	\$576,900.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 391,400.00	\$ 185,500.00	\$ 576,900.00

Narrative: The grant agency will advance 80% % (\$461,500) of the award and the remaining 20% (\$115,400) will be received upon completion of an interim progress report. Both deposits are expected in FY23/24 for a total revenue of \$576,900. The cost is estimated at \$391,400 in FY23/24 and remaining \$185,500 in FY24/25. The funding will cover the costs of two Administrative Office Professional (AOP) I, two Social Worker positions, and supplies associated with the new positions.

Key Contract Risks:

Must meet terms of the agreement, or at risk of Termination, as enumerated in Section VII of the “Terms and Conditions” document.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
AOP	2
Social Services Worker	2

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please send a minute order to:
Hope Vasquez, Chief Financial Officer, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office

Attachments:

- a.) California Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Planning and Capacity Building Program Acknowledgement of Grant Terms and Conditions

Authored by:

Alice Perez, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office Programs Manager,
Cal-AIM Grant Point-of-Contact