



# 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:** August 26, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director  
Department of Behavioral Wellness  
Contact: Ryan Weyman, Branch Chief of Information Technology  
Department of Behavioral Wellness  
**SUBJECT:** CalMHSA Interoperability Solution Participation Agreement FY 2023-27 and  
CalMHSA Data Archive Solution Participation Agreement FY 2023-27

DS  
AN

## County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Concurrence

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** CEO Budget Director

As to form: Yes

## Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Executive Information  
Technology Council

As to form: Yes

## Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness, or designee, to accept **\$50,000** in California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Data Exchange Framework Data Sharing Agreement Signatory Grant funding awarded by the CalHHS Center for Data Insights and Innovation;
- Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a Participation Agreement (No. 5128-INT-2023-SB) with the **California Mental Health Services Authority** (CalMHSA) to enable the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to participate in CalMHSA's Interoperability Solution Program, a managed Interoperability Software as a Service solution, to assist the Department of Behavioral Wellness in meeting state and federal interoperability requirements; for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$348,608**, inclusive of a one-time Implementation and Project Management fee of \$150,000 plus a CalMHSA Managed Services annual subscription of \$31,500 in FY 2023-24, \$64,575 in FY 2024-25,

\$67,804 in FY 2025-26, and \$34,729 in FY 2026-27, for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026;

- c) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a Participation Agreement (No. 5127-ARCHIVE-2023-SB) with **California Mental Health Services Authority** (CalMHSA) to enable the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to participate in CalMHSA's Data Archive Solution Program, where CalMHSA will provide a database solution, professional implementation, and support services to assist with archiving legacy application Electronic Medical Record ("EMR") databases; for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$79,704**, inclusive of a one-time Professional Services and Implementation Fee of \$24,900; an annual subscription License Fee of \$11,268 per calendar year for each calendar year that the Data Archive Agreement is in effect; and Optional Additional Services of \$21,000 for report writing and additional storage if required, for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026;
- d) Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority relative to both the Interoperability Agreement and the Data Archive Agreement (each an "Agreement") to (i) withdraw from or terminate the applicable Agreement in accordance with the provisions of each Agreement, (ii) make immaterial changes to each Agreement as provided in each Agreement, (iii) authorize additional or different services as provided in each Agreement, (iv) and reallocate funds between funding sources referenced in the applicable Agreement; all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board of Supervisors' approval of an amendment of the applicable Agreement, subject to the Board of Supervisors' ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time;
- e) Approve a Budget Revision Request (BJE Number 0010698) to increase Appropriations of **\$382,000** in BWell, Mental Health Services Act Fund for Capital Assets and Services and Supplies, funded by release of Restricted Purpose of Fund Balance; and
- f) 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:**

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests The Board of Supervisors to authorize the Director of BWell or designee to accept **\$50,000** in California Health and Human Services Agency Data Exchange Framework Data Sharing Agreement Signatory Grant (Grant) funding awarded by the Health and Human Services Agency's Center for Data Insights and Innovation. This Grant will offset a portion of the cost of the Interoperability Solution Program.

In addition, BWell requests the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for their Interoperability Solution Program called "CalMHSA Connex". CalMHSA Connex, will help BWell to meet state and federal interoperability requirements by facilitating the exchange of protected health information, personally identifiable information, and other information between organizations. This is required by the State's Data Exchange Framework regulations. The total maximum contract amount is **\$348,608**, which includes a one-time Implementation and Project Management fee of \$150,000; an annual subscription of \$31,500 in FY 2023-24, \$64,575 in FY 2024-25, \$67,804 in FY 2025-26, and \$34,729 in FY 2026-27; effective from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026. A portion of the one-time

Implementation and Project Management cost will be offset by the \$50,000 Grant as outlined above. Interoperability Solution services have been provided continuously since January 1, 2024.

Finally, BWell requests the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Chair to execute an Agreement with CalMHSA for the Data Archive Solution Program. The Data Archive Solution assists with archiving legacy electronic health record databases to a secure cloud environment. The total maximum contract amount is **\$79,704**, which includes a one-time Professional Services and Implementation Fee of \$24,900, plus a License Fee of \$11,268 per calendar year for each calendar year from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026. Optional Additional Services include report writing professional services and additional storage or back-up, if needed. No Optional Additional Services have been required to date; however if required, the contract includes provision for up to \$21,000 worth of Optional Additional Services. Data Archive Solution services have been provided continuously since January 1, 2024.

### **Discussion**

CalMHSA Connex is an interoperability solution designed by CalMHSA to meet Data Exchange Framework (DxF) and other requirements. Counties opt in through a Participation Agreement (Attachment A). The deadline for acute psychiatric hospitals to comply with the Data Exchange Framework requirements is January 2026. CalMHSA Connex participants must be live and meet Data Exchange Framework requirements by the end of 2025. Additionally, CalMHSA Connex counties will be able to connect to Qualified Health Information Networks, as well as participate in more local and community-based data exchange.

Through the Data Archive Participation Agreement (Attachment B), CalMHSA will provide BWell with a Microsoft Azure Cloud database solution and professional implementation and support services to assist with archiving BWell's legacy electronic health record databases (e.g., ShareCare, Clinician's Gateway) to a secure Cloud environment. CalMHSA will help BWell retain copies of and access to legacy data, while also assisting BWell in taking steps toward meeting future interoperability requirements to be fulfilled via CalMHSA Connex.

CalMHSA has received \$400,000 in Round 3 grant funding from the California Health and Human Services Agency (Grant) to assist in implementing CalMHSA Connex (Attachment C). Eighteen (18) counties ("Signatories"), including Santa Barbara County, applied under CalMHSA's umbrella application for the funding and are eligible for up to \$50,000 each. BWell requests the Board of Supervisors' approval and acceptance of this \$50,000 Grant. CalMHSA will receive the Grant funding directly from DxF and apply \$50,000 credited to the County's Interoperability Agreement.

### **Background:**

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's membership in CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under Gov. Code section 6500 et seq. that serves California counties as an independent administrative and fiscal intergovernmental structure for jointly developing, funding, and implementing mental health services and educational programs at the state, regional, and local levels.

On February 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved BWell's Director to enter into an agreement with the California Health and Human Services Agency setting forth the Data Exchange Framework (Attachment D). This agreement was the first required statewide Data Sharing Agreement of its kind in California and is part of the state's plans for transforming healthcare, expanding coverage, advancing equity, and improving connections between health and social services entities. The Data Exchange Framework includes a single Data Sharing Agreement and common set of policies and procedures that will govern and require the exchange of health information among health care entities and government entities in California. The Data Sharing Agreement is a mandated agreement

between hospitals, physician organizations and medical groups, skilled nursing facilities, health plans and disability insurers, clinical laboratories, and acute psychiatric hospitals to share patient information safely.

### **Performance Measure:**

#### **Data Archive**

##### Program Planning and Deployment

- Within 120 calendar days of receiving archival data, CalMHSA will deliver all planning materials and documentation required for program deployment, including project scope, timelines, and architecture design of the Microsoft Azure SQL Cloud environment.

##### Data Migration and Archive Activation

- Within 30 calendar days of database restoration, CalMHSA will provide a completion timeline and begin data migration activities. The goal is to normalize data within 6–9 months and make a functional, cloud-hosted archive available. CalMHSA will ensure database access for BWell staff and facilitate testing and validation of migrated data.

##### Ongoing Support and Maintenance

- CalMHSA will provide ongoing database maintenance, annual backups, and read-only access for BWell to support reporting and operational use. Any migration issues identified will be addressed and re-validated to ensure data integrity.

#### **Interoperability**

##### Implement Patient Access API

- Implement and maintain a secure HL7 FHIR R4.0.1 API that enables patients to access claims, encounters, and defined clinical data via third-party applications.

##### Deploy Provider Directory API

- Make provider directory information publicly accessible through a standards based API and provide BWell a link to publish on the County website.

##### Support Information Blocking Compliance

- Ensure technical capabilities and infrastructure are in place to support compliance with federal Information Blocking regulations.

##### Enable ADT Event Notification Ingestion

- Establish and maintain systems to receive and ingest Admission, Discharge, and Transfer notifications from external sources, contingent on data availability.

##### Maintain 24/7 Interoperability Uptime

- Ensure bi-directional data exchange systems maintain 24/7 operational availability. With a four-hour outage response time and 30-day resolution period for system issues.

##### Provide Technical Support and Monitoring

- Deliver weekday support (M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. PST). Proactive system monitoring for security and compliance. Manage interoperability infrastructure including XCA/XCPD endpoints.

##### Advance Notice and Root Cause for Planned or Unplanned Outages

- Provide five business days notice for planned outages and deliver written root cause analysis for unplanned outages upon request.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

**Budgeted:** No; recommend approval of BJE No. 0010698 attached (Attachment E).

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>FY 2026-27</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund					
State	67,284	231,093	84,322	45,613	<b>428,312</b>
Federal					
Fees					
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,284</b>	<b>231,093</b>	<b>84,322</b>	<b>45,613</b>	<b>428,312</b>

The referenced contract is funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds. BWell is requesting approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010698 for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 to establish appropriations of \$382,800. BWell will incorporate \$45,613 in the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) copy of each executed Agreement to Chris Shorb at [cshorb@sbcbswell.org](mailto:cshorb@sbcbswell.org) and to the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A:** CalMHSA Interoperability Participation Agreement 5128-INT-2023-SB

**Attachment B:** CalMHSA Data Archive Participation Agreement 5127-ARCHIVE-2023-SB

**Attachment C:** Dx\_F\_Signatory\_Attestation - Santa Barbara County

**Attachment D:** CalHHS\_DSA\_Final\_v1\_7.1.22-11.8.22\_030620230736

**Attachment E:** BJE No. 0010698

**Authored by:**

C. Shorb

Contract Analyst

[cshorb@sbcbswell.org](mailto:cshorb@sbcbswell.org)