



# 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:** June 24, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director  
Department of Behavioral Wellness

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Contact Info: Katie Cohen, PsyD, LMFT, Assistant Director of Clinical  
Operations

**SUBJECT:** Mental Health Contract Renewal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-27 - Community  
Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify

## 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:

- Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to terminate, from the **Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify FY 2022-25 (BC 22-014)** contract, the Transitional Age Youth New Heights Full Service Partnership program at all three locations (Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria) effective June 30, 2025.
- Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a multi-year Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify** (CommUnify) (a local vendor) for the provision of children's mental health services in Santa Barbara County, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$1,716,810** inclusive of \$858,405 for FY 2025-26, and \$858,405 for FY 2026-27 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027;
- 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 to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement; (iii) amend the staffing requirements of the Exhibits A(s) of the Agreement; (iv) reallocate funds between funding sources with discretion per Exhibit B of the Agreement;

- (v) adjust the provisional rate with discretion per Exhibit B of the agreement; (vi) approve subsidy payments in excess of the limit per Exhibit B of the Agreement; (vii) waive the use of County Maximum rates per Exhibit B of the Agreement; (viii) reallocate between the contract allocations to increase or decrease the incentive payment per the Exhibit B of the agreement; and (ix) amend the goals, measures, and outcomes in Exhibit E of the agreement, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring formal amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- d) 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:**

This item is on the agenda to request that the Board of Supervisors approve, ratify, and authorize the termination of the Transitional Age Youth New Heights Full Service Partnership; and approve and authorize a two-year renewal of the County of Santa Barbara's contract with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify (CommUnify); for a total maximum contract amount of **\$1,716,810**. This will enable CommUnify to continue providing early intervention mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible children with serious emotional disorders through Head Start programs located in Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara.

### **Discussion:**

Approval of the recommended actions enables the payment of up to \$1,716,810 over two years to CommUnify for the purpose of providing aid to Santa Barbara County youth through the Head Start program.

Only the Head Start program is being renewed in this contract. The New Heights Full Service Partnership program from the FY 2022-25 contract is being terminated due to a combination of staffing challenges and subsequent lack of referrals. CommUnify, who was previously providing caseworkers for the Full Service Partnership program, will no longer be providing these services and the caseload will be reassigned to BWell staff to avoid disruption to service.

### **Background:**

The 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 and children and youth with severe emotional disorders.

CommUnify has been providing early intervention services for youth for the duration of the FY 2022-25 contract. The Head Start program served significantly more clients and met more of its performance goals compared to the New Heights Full Service Partnership program. CommUnify rehabilitation specialists provide flexible, intensive, and individualized behavioral interventions designed to assist children with developing interpersonal and social skills, managing negative behaviors, and succeeding in their home, school, and community. CommUnify has a history of meeting the requirements of its contracts, and its programs have impacted numerous County children and youth.

### **Performance Measure:**

During the first two quarters of the current FY 2024-25, CommUnify had the following outcomes:

1. Transition Age Youth New Heights Full Service Partnership (TAY FSP) – Santa Barbara - This program was terminated. It served 0 clients during FY 2024-25, and, thus, the performance measures for this location are not applicable.

2. TAY FSP – Santa Maria - CommUnify served an average of 20.5 clients with an averaged 3 discharged and 6 new enrollments. It met one of its four goals:

- 13% of clients discharged to a higher level of care with a goal of less than 15%;
- 85% of clients with stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95%;
- 75% of clients engaged in purposeful activity with a goal of 95%;
- 88% of clients discharged to a lower level of care with a goal of 85%.

3. TAY FSP – Lompoc - CommUnify served an average of 15.5 clients with an averaged 3.5 discharged and 3 new enrollments. It met zero of its four goals.

- 84% of clients with stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95%;
- 34% of clients engaged in purposeful activity with a goal of 95%;
- 50% clients discharged to a lower level of care with a goal of 85%;
- 50% clients discharged to a higher level of care with a goal of less than 15%.

4. HeadStart - CommUnify served an average of 67 clients with an averaged 17 discharged and 16 new enrollments. It met all four of its four goals:

- 100% of clients with stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95%;
- 100% of clients engaged in purposeful activity with a goal of 95%;
- 100% of clients discharged to a lower level of care with a goal of 85%;
- 0% of clients discharged to a higher level of care with a goal of less than 15%.

#### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

#### **Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund	-	-	-
State	\$48,589	\$48,589	<b>\$97,178</b>
Federal	-	-	-
Fees	-	-	-
Other: Medical Patient Revenue	\$809,816	\$809,816	<b>\$1,619,632</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$858,405</b>	<b>\$858,405</b>	<b>\$1,716,810</b>

The above referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. With the transition to CalAIM Payment Reform, the fee-for-service portion of the contract will be funded with Medi-Cal Patient Revenue which primarily consists of Federal funds. The amount of Federal funds is contingent on the client's aid code and the State issued rate for the service. The Non-Medi-Cal portion of the contract is funded by State Realignment.

The funding sources were included in the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget. The funding sources will also be included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget and funds are contingent upon Board of Supervisors approval.

#### **Special Instructions:**

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Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above contract and one (1) Minute Order to Jeremy Montgomery at [jmontgomery@sbcbswell.org](mailto:jmontgomery@sbcbswell.org) and the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify FY 2025-27 BC

**Attachment B** - Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify FY 2022-25 BC 22-014 Amendment 2

**Attachment C** - Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify FY 2022-25 BC 22-014 Amendment 1

**Attachment D** - Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify FY 2022-25 BC 22-014

**Attachment E** – Notice of Intent to Partially Terminate Agreement (BC 22-014)

**Attachment F** – Notice of Partial Termination of Agreement (BC 22-014)

**Contact Information:**

Jeremy Montgomery  
Administrative Office Professional I  
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