



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: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: August 17, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pamela Fisher, PsyD., Interim Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness - Renewal Contractor on Payroll (COP) Agreement FY 21-22
Daniel Litten, M.D.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Contractor on Payroll Agreement with **Daniel Litten, M.D.**, for the provision of psychiatric services for the period of September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed **\$15,000**;
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP). The above-referenced contract complies with the Santa Barbara County Contractor on Payroll Policy, approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 20, 2015. Approval of the above-referenced contract will ensure the continued provision of critical mental health and related services during FY 21-22.

Background:

BWell has experienced continued difficulty recruiting and retaining psychiatrists, qualified Registered Nurses, and other individuals who are certified and licensed to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services to the area. Although the County maintains ongoing recruitment for psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, and individuals certified and licensed to provide ancillary mental health services, it rarely produces enough qualified candidates to meet departmental needs. A COP helps to bridge the gap in mental health treatment capacity.

Daniel Litten, M.D. provides support services for mandated on-call and independent evaluations at the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), during use of seclusion and restraints at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), and 5250 certification evaluations at the PHF. Support services include being on-call Monday through Friday, 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM, and for twenty-four (24) hours on Saturday and Sunday, including holidays. In addition, Dr. Litten works with PHF and CSU staff to provide: patient diagnosis; behavior requiring seclusion/restraint or both; medical prescriptions; patient interviews, and notations on the designated seclusion/restraint form. Dr. Litten also provides: on-call and as scheduled internal medicine duties, which include the provision of complete medical histories and physicals for PHF inpatients and CSU outpatients within twenty-four (24) hours and follow-up medical care.

The attached COP agreement meet the requirements of Government Code section 7522.56, limiting the maximum number of hours and the maximum allowable hourly rate payable for COPs who are retirees of the County and who perform work as a contractor for the County. They also meet the requirements of Government Code sections 53260 and 53243.2, limiting the amount of cash settlement in the event of termination of the agreements, and requiring reimbursement of any cash settlement related to the termination from the COP, if the COP is convicted of a crime involving an abuse of the COP’s position with the County.

Performance Measure:

1. Clients maintaining safe and stable living environments;
2. Decrease hospitalizations;
3. Increase access to care; and
4. Decrease number of incarcerations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Litten FY 21-22 Cost:</u>				
General Fund					
State	\$7,500.00				
Federal	\$7,500.00				
Fees					
Other:					
Total	\$15,000.00				

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by a combination of State and Federal revenue. The funding sources have been included in the FY 21-22 Proposed Budget.

Key Contract Risks: As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future Medi-Cal audit disallowances. However, BWell provides training to the Contractor to minimize financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract to abello@sbcowell.org, bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us, and Stefan Brewer, Employment and Workforce Planning Division, Human Resources Department at SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Litten FY 21-22 COP BC

Authored by:

A. Bello