



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.:**  
**For Agenda Of:** September 19, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner (805) 681-4290  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Alice Perez, Programs Manager (805) 681-4239

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of \$5,000,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Health Care Services Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative Capacity Building Program

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**County Counsel Concurrence Yes**

As to form:

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize Sheriff-Coroner or designee to execute the grant award agreement accepting anticipated funding of provisional award amount of \$5,000,000 from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) 1115 Demonstration for – Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Capacity Building Program to support the planning and implementation of targeted pre-release Medi-Cal services to men and women in custody at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail and Northern Branch Jail.
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which 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:**

This item is currently before the Board of Supervisors for authorization to execute a grant agreement and accept a provisional award in the amount of \$5,000,000 from DHCS for PATH Capacity Building Funds. The Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative Capacity Building Program PATH funding (PATH Justice-Involved Round 3) provides implementation grants to county jails, youth correctional facilities and county behavioral health agencies for linkage services to build bridges to community-based care for justice involved (JI) Medi-Cal members, offering services to stabilize their condition(s) and establish a reentry plan for community-based care prior to release. Funding is intended to support eligible entities as they stand up processes, protocols, and IT system modifications that are necessary to implement or modify processes to support the provision of pre-release Medi-Cal services.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) will utilize grant funds to advance health care equity for men and women in custody at Santa Barbara County Northern Branch and Main Jail facilities through planning for and implementing operational processes. The PATH funding will support creation of Medi-Cal billing and provider enrollment, ninety-day pre-release service delivery, support of pre-release care management, reentry planning and coordination, and oversight and project management.

**Background:**

On January 26, 2023, DHCS received federal approval under *CalAIM 1115 Demonstration PATH* capacity building funds to support the Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative. Through this effort, DHCS received approval to disseminate up to \$410 million in capacity building funds to support the planning and implementation of pre-release and reentry services in the 90 days prior to an individual's release into the community. This demonstration is part of California's comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage and access to care for JI populations. With access to pre-release Medi-Cal services, California will directly test and evaluate its expectation that providing targeted services to Medi-Cal-eligible individuals prior to release will avert the unnecessary use of inpatient hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, emergency departments and other forms of costly and inefficient care that otherwise would be paid for by Medi-Cal. The PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 provides funding to support the planning and implementation of the provision of targeted pre-release Medi-Cal services to individuals in State prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities. PATH funds are available to support investments in personnel, capacity, and/or information technology systems that are needed for collaborative planning and implementation to effectuate pre-release service processes.

On July 30, 2023, as a qualifying entity operating county jail facility, and following the submission of a required DHCS technical assistance survey, SBSO submitted a streamlined application for PATH Justice-Involved Round 3. On August 15, 2023, SBSO received notice from DHCS of the approval of a provisions award amount of \$5,000,000. The finalization of the funding allocation is dependent on submitting a capacity building comprehensive Implementation Plan and associated budget, due no more than 180 days after initial funding is received, or by March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. SBSO will receive 10% of the maximum awarded amount within 45 days of grant agreement execution, and an additional 60% of funding upon review and approval of the implementation plan due within 180 days from application approval. An additional 15% of funding will be received upon review and approval of the interim progress report, which documents how PATH funds are spent and is to be submitted when 50% of operational criteria have been successfully implemented. The remaining 15% portion of funding will be received upon review and approval of the final progress report due no later than 45 days after the agency has successfully implemented 100% of operational readiness requirements and received written approval from DHCS to go-live. Santa Barbara County Jail facilities will be able to launch Medi-Cal

pre-release services starting April 1, 2024, upon a demonstration of readiness consistent with DHCS requirements and are mandated to implement Medi-Cal pre-release services by March 31, 2026.

In collaboration with service provider partners, SBSO will utilize PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 funding to retain a CalAIM Project Manager with oversight over pre-release Medi-Cal services, design and implement an infrastructure to support Medi-Cal billing services and hiring of up to five (5) reentry planners in addition to the two (2) reentry planners approved in PATH Round 2. Funding will be utilized to design a framework to support clinical consultation to ensure diagnosis, stabilization, treatment, coordination, and linkages to establish relationships with community providers. Processes will include those that support virtual/in-person in-reach for providers: medication upon release from custody, including Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT); and electronic notification of the individual's release date to the County Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Behavioral Wellness, and the pre-release and post-release care manager.

The system design will also establish a clear staffing and/or contractor structure to support each readiness element outlined in DHCS implementation readiness guide and compliance with DHCS requirements for 90-day Medi-Cal reentry services and reentry coordination. Further, a governance structure for partnerships will be established with key partners (e.g., DSS, care management organizations, providers, and Department of Behavioral Wellness). In addition, reporting and oversight processes will be established to collect, monitor, and report on DHCS required measures, including corrective action processes to address operational challenges. Permissible funding uses include implementing information technology billing systems to support delivery of and billing for Medi-Cal reentry services, adoption of certified Electronic Health Records technology, hiring of staff and related training, development of protocols and procedures, and additional activities to promote collaboration and planning.

Through the utilization of CalAIM PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 funding, SBSO and key partners will design an equitable, coordinated, wellness-centered Medi-Cal delivery system for men and women in custody at the Northern Branch and Main Jail facilities, ensuring integrated pre-release and reentry care coordination and case management across physical health, behavioral health, and social services providers.

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

Budgeted: No

### **Fiscal Narrative:**

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office has received a \$5,000,000 provisional grant for the development and implementation of a framework to enhance pre-release Medi-Cal services and reimbursements for individuals in custody at the Santa Barbara County Northern Branch and Main Jail facilities. This award is not required nor expected to be expended in this fiscal year, and DHCS will provide prospective direction on expenditures timelines in forthcoming operational guidelines. The anticipated \$5,000,000 provisional award to SBSO is dependent on submitting a capacity building comprehensive Implementation Plan due to DHCS no more than 180 days after initial funding is received, or by March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. Once the Implementation Plan and associated budget is developed and approved by DHCS, SBSO will return to the Board with a budget revision request to recognize the grant funds and specify appropriations from the grant to achieve the grant goals.

**Key Contract Risks:**

Acceptance of the funds requires SBSO to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant award following approval of an Implementation Plan, including achieving goals and outcomes required by DHCS. The grantor will perform monitoring and SBSO would be responsible for any disallowances and may have to return unspent funds. SBSO will mitigate this risk by setting up program specific accounting for the grant program and will include recoupment clauses in the terms and conditions of any subcontractors.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: State of California Department of Health Care Services Notice of Award

Attachment B: Path JI Round 3 Terms and Conditions

**Authored by:**

Alice Perez