



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: June 15, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pam Fisher, PsyD, Acting Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: John Winckler, LMFT, Division Chief of Clinical Operations
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Services – Hope Refuge, Inc. Board Contract
for FY 21-22

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 an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Hope Refuge, Inc. (Hope Refuge), a California nonprofit (a local vendor), for the provision of short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) services and Intensive Home Based (IHBS) and Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and youth (age 9 through 19) who require out of home placement for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$1,152,025** for the period of **July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022;**
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibits A-2 and A-3 of the Agreement; amend program staffing requirements per Exhibits A-2 and A-3 of the Agreement; reallocate funds between funding sources with discretion per Exhibit B of the Agreement; adjust the provisional rate with discretion per Exhibit B of the Agreement; approve in writing in the year end cost settlement that use of the County Maximum Allowable rate was waived for settlement purposes per Exhibit B of the Agreement; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E of the Agreement, all without altering the Maximum Contract Amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and

- C. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other 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 is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County 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 (SMI) and children and youth with SED.

This item is on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors to approve the Chair to execute the contract for Hope Refuge for the provision of STRTP, IHBS, and ICC services for SED children and youth who require out of home placement for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed \$1,152,025 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to continue to deliver mandated services to children and youth with SED.

Background:

The State Department of Social Service (DSS) Continuum of Care Reform, Assembly Bill 403, draws together a series of existing and new reforms to the child welfare services program designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed nurturing family homes. It provides the statutory and policy framework to ensure services and supports provided to the child or youth and his or her family are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable permanent family. Both DSS and BWell work as interdisciplinary agencies for determining the need for and placement of County children and youth in STRTP. A STRTP is a residential facility that provides an integrated program of specialized and intensive care and supervision, services, and support; specialty mental health services; mental health treatment; and short-term, 24-hour care and supervision to children and youth.

Hope Refuge provides mandated mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible children and youth, ages 9 through 19 years of age, with SED, who are residents of Santa Barbara County or presumptive transfer clients from other counties, who have been temporarily placed in a licensed STRTP. The County began contracting with Hope Refuge in December 2020 through the Purchase Order process when Hope Refuge first became licensed by the State for services. Hope Refuge began providing 6 beds to the County but will now provide 24 beds to meet increasing and complex needs that cannot be met in a home-based, family setting.

Hope Refuge also provides IHBS, individualized, strength-based interventions designed to correct or ameliorate mental health conditions interfering with a child/youth's functioning and are aimed at helping the client build necessary skills for successful functioning in the home and community. Along with IHBS services, it provides ICC targeted case management services that facilitate the assessment of, care planning for, and coordination of services for clients along with coordinating linkage to Therapeutic Behavioral Services for qualifying clients. These services are for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who meet medical necessity criteria for these services. Hope Refuge assists our clients to begin to recover from a background of trauma and gain the necessary life skills in a short, intensive program to successfully transition to permanent and stable home placement.

Performance Outcomes and Measures:

Program goals and outcomes are:

1. Reduce mental health and substance abuse symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care and emergency rooms for mental health and physical health problems.

Outcome A: Incarcerations/Juvenile Hall will be at 10% or less.

Outcome B: Psychiatric Inpatient Admissions will be at 10% or less.

2. Assist clients in their mental health recovery process and with developing the skills necessary to lead healthy and productive lives in the community.

Outcome A: Clients with stable/permanent housing will be 95% or greater.

Outcome B: Clients engaged in purposeful activity (educational, vocational, volunteer work) will be 95% or greater.

Outcome C: Of those discharged, 15% or less will be discharged to a higher level of care.

Outcome D: Of those discharged, 85% or more will be discharged to a lower level of care.

3. Provide mental health (and/or substance abuse) services for clients and their families in order to prevent out-of-home and out-of-county placements.

Outcome A: Clients with new out-of-primary home placements (county and out-of-county) will be 5% or less.

Outcome B: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) completion will be 100%.

Outcome C: CANS improvement in 3+ domains (a report of a positive change by domain) will be 10% or greater (in 3 of 6 domains);

Outcome D: Pediatric Symptoms Checklist (PSC) completion will be 100%.

During the first two quarters of FY 2020-21, Hope Refuge served an average of 18 clients per quarter with an average of 12 clients per quarter being discharged. There was an average of 19% incarcerated, 3% admitted to a psychiatric hospital, 100% had stable/permanent housing, 100% were engaged in purposeful activities, 10% were discharged to a higher level of care, 27% were discharged to a lower level of care, no CANS or Milestone of Recovery Scale (MORS) were completed.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY 21-22 Cost:
General Fund	
State	\$ 576,012.50
Federal	\$ 576,012.50
Fees	
Other:	
Total	\$ 1,152,025.00

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources are 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 audit disallowances and repayments. The agreement includes language requiring contractor to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed contract and one (1) minute order to Denise Morales at: dmorales@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Hope Refuge FY 21-22 BC

Authored by:

D.Morales