



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: April 8, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Laura Zeitz, RN, Assistant Director, Inpatient/Crisis and Access/
Homeless and Housing/Justice
Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Report FY 23-24 and FY 24-25,
First and Second Quarter

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025 First and Second Quarter report on the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Facility (PHF), providing an update from the PHF Governing Board regarding operations of the PHF including quality of care and other program activities;
- b) Adopt and authorize the Chair to execute the attached resolution amending membership of the PHF Governing Board to replace the General Services Director with the Public Defender, superseding Resolution 17-216 adopted and authorized by the Board of Supervisors on October 10, 2017; and
- c) Determine that the above action is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda under the County Resolution requiring the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Governing Board to make annual reports on the County PHF to the Board of Supervisors. The PHF Governing Board was originally created by action of the Board of Supervisors on August 30, 2016, as amended on September 20, 2016, and October 10, 2017, to provide oversight of the County PHF. The County PHF is a 16-bed, locked inpatient psychiatric facility that provides comprehensive services to individuals in need of acute psychiatric care and is known as a “Super PHF” because of its ability to bill for Medicaid and Medi-Cal reimbursement. A presentation, as adopted by the PHF Governing Board at its regular meeting on March 26, 2025, reviewed County PHF operations and client data for the period of FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025, Quarters 1 and 2. In addition, the Board is asked to approve a change in membership on the PHF Governing Board to replace the General Services Director with the Public Defender. Departments that are most connected to and impacted by PHF operations and services have a valuable role and are well-positioned to provide valuable insights and leadership on the PHF Governing Board. This change is designed to promote decisions that are informed by operational and service needs. The PHF Governing Board considered and adopted this proposed amendment to the PHF Governing Board membership on March 26, 2025, and directed staff to request an amendment by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County PHF is a 16-bed, locked inpatient psychiatric facility that provides 24-hour acute comprehensive care to individuals with severe mental illness who require, per Welfare and Instructions Code (WIC) Section 5150, psychiatric hospitalization at a Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) designated facility. The County PHF is licensed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as a “psychiatric health facility” and, in addition, is also eligible under Health and Safety Code section 1250.2(d) to participate as a hospital in the federal Medicare program if it meets all the federal conditions of participation. The County PHF license only allows for adult clients (ages 18 and over) and is financially supported through Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement. To maintain its eligibility to participate in the Medicare program, the County PHF is subject to unannounced inspection by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The most recent inspection was conducted in 2019 and entailed an analysis of the requirements of participation for hospitals pursuant to federal regulations at Code of Federal Regulations Title 42, Part 482. The County PHF is also subject to unannounced reviews of requirements for DHCS licensure as set forth in California regulations at California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 5, Chapters 9. These reviews provide important monitoring of County PHF services and facilities, identifying both areas of strength and improvement. Both state and federal regulations require an effective governing body that is legally responsible for the oversight of the facility.

PHF Governing Board

The Santa Barbara County PHF Governing Board was created by action of the Board of Supervisors on August 30, 2016, amended on September 20, 2016, and October 10, 2017. The PHF Governing Board provides oversight to ensure the County PHF is compliant with state and federal regulations. Currently, the PHF Governing Board consists of the following County officials: Assistant County Executive Officer of Health and Human Services and Public Safety, Director of General Services, Director of the Public Health Department, Chief Deputy of Custody Operations for the Sheriff’s Office, a Public Guardian Representative, a Public Health Doctor, and one Supervisor from the Board of Supervisors (and alternate). Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino serves on the PHF Governing Board, with Second District Supervisor Laura Capps as the alternate.

The PHF Governing Board is part of the PHF's governance structure that also includes the PHF Medical Practice Committee and the Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) team. The PHF Governing Board generally meets monthly. Regular agenda items include, but are not limited to:

- Report on quality indicators
- Policies and procedures
- Medical staff bylaws
- Medical staff credentialing and privileging
- Contract monitoring
- Licensing survey reviews
- Patient satisfaction survey results

Fiscal Analysis:

The PHF item is for information and administrative purposes only. There is no current budget analysis.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) minute order to Marilyn Simon-Gersuk at msimongersuk@sbcbswell.org and to BWell Contracts at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025, Quarters 1 & 2 PHF Report

Attachment B – Resolution Modifying Membership on the PHF Governing Board

Attachment C – Resolution 17-216

Authored by:

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