



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 22, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Acting Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, 681-5220
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, J.D., Administration & Operations
Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5236

SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Services - Merakey Allos Board Contract FY 21-24

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:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Merakey Allos** (Merakey), a Pennsylvania nonprofit (not a local vendor), which provides for:
 1. Adult mental health services for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$5,706,000**, inclusive of \$1,902,000 per fiscal year, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024; and
 2. A short-term license to occupy a County-owned building, 401 E. Cypress, Second Floor, Lompoc, California, for monthly rent in the amount of \$10,000 and as otherwise set-forth in Section 13 of Exhibit A-2 of the Agreement; and
- 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; amend program staffing requirements and hours of operation per Exhibit A-2 of the Agreement; reallocate funds between funding sources per Exhibit B of the Agreement; adjust the provisional rate per Exhibit B of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; increase or remove the County Maximum Allowable Rate per Exhibit B-1 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 formal 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 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 on the agenda to request approval of new Contractor, Merakey, to provide Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services to adults in the Lompoc area. Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to provide various specialty mental health services to adults and ensure continuum of care is met in the program region.

Background:

On April 14, 2021, Merakey was awarded the ACT/AOT Lompoc Program through the competitive request for proposal process. Merakey's proposal demonstrated success in delivering services through its operation of 29 ACT teams in both rural and urban settings since 1995.

The Lompoc ACT Program is an evidence-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support service for clients with serious mental illness who demonstrate the need for this most intensive level of nonresidential community service. Merakey will strive to reduce hospitalizations, psychiatric re-admissions, incarcerations, over-utilization of crisis services, and chronic homelessness. Merakey will assist individuals with aftercare post hospitalization discharge), obtaining and maintaining competitive employment, and increasing community tenure. Services will be provided to approximately 80 adults ages 18 and older.

In May 2016, the Board authorized the court-ordered AOT Program for individuals with mental illness who meet the criteria established by "Laura's Law" (the Assisted Outpatient Demonstration Project Act of 2002, codified at California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 5345 through 5349.5). The Lompoc AOT Program seeks to improve the quality of life of participants, support them on their path to recovery and wellness, prevent decompensating of symptoms, and prevent incarceration and cycling through acute services (e.g., psychiatric hospitalization). The Lompoc AOT Program targets to serve ten (10) adults annually. Merakey will provide services to eligible clients referred to the Lompoc AOT Program. Merakey will assess and create treatment plans for clients, which may include substance abuse treatment, 24/7 crisis services, peer support, education and vocational assistance, housing assistance, and intensive case management services.

Merakey will be temporarily occupying County-owned building, 401 E. Cypress, Second Floor, Lompoc, until a permanent facility for the Program is secured. The Agreement provides license to access space until short term lease is executed with General Services by July 1, 2021.

Contract Performance Measures:

Merakey will have the following goals for the ACT/AOT Lompoc Program:

- Reduce mental health and substance abuse symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care and emergency rooms for mental health and physical health problems.
- Assist clients in their mental health recovery process and with developing the skills necessary to lead independent, healthy, and productive lives in the community.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources		FY 21-24
General Fund		
State	\$	3,138,300.00
Federal	\$	2,567,700.00
Fees		
Other:		
Total	\$	5,706,000.00

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. Funding sources are included in the FY 21-22 adopted budget.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded with State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments through the State’s auditing process. Behavioral Wellness contracts include language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete, executed agreement to Ana Bello at abello@sbcbswell.org and to the Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Merakey FY 21-24 BC

Authored by:

Ana Bello