



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 and Probation
Department No.: 032 and 022
For Agenda Of: 09/17/19
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 60 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Yes

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Bill Brown, Sheriff – Coroner & Tanja Heitman, Chief Probation Officer

Contact Info: Shawn T. Lammer, Lieutenant, (805) 681-4252 & Shawn E. Small, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, (805) 803-8586

SUBJECT: California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG)/Wellpath annual report for healthcare services at Probation and Sheriff detention facilities.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the annual report regarding the Agreement for Medical Services with the California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG); and
- b) Determine that the approval of the recommended action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b) (5), since the recommended action is a government administrative activity which does not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

On July 3, 2018, the Board of Supervisors accepted California Forensic Medical Group's (CFMG) first, annual report for healthcare services at the Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department. The Board of Supervisors also requested that the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office provide an update on the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation process. In April of 2018, NCCHC updated and changed its requirements for adult accreditation subsequently causing the Sheriff's Office and CFMG to update our respective accreditation requirements. Therefore, a re-audit occurred with the new standards. Although these standards

were released, further discussion and clarification surrounding these standards were needed and sought out by everyone involved.

In October of 2018, CMFG's parent company, Correctional Medical Group Companies (CMGC), joined with Correct Care Solutions (CCS) to form Wellpath. Although the newly formed company is known as Wellpath, CFMG and CCS operate as separate entities with shared policies and procedures. Thus, our contract with CFMG remains intact but CFMG is now referred to as Wellpath. Pursuant to the agreement, CFMG is to present a detailed annual report to the Board of Supervisors containing a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and examination of significant trends and issues.

The following key contract components are discussed in Wellpath's annual report (Attachment A):

- NCCHC Accreditation Requirements
- Service Level Agreements
- Mandatory Reporting
- Oversight

Background:

On July 3, 2018, CFMG, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Office presented the annual report to the Board of Supervisors. At this presentation, it was agreed the next annual report was to be provided 60 days after July 1st, 2019. This would allow the presentation to occur after budget sessions and provide Fiscal Year statistics. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors also requested that the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office provide an update on the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation process within 6 months of July 3, 2018.

As further discussed in the annual report and in the annual report presentation, significant changes to the NCCHC standards occurred in April of 2018. After reviewing these changes, a re-audit needed to occur. After the CFMG and CCS merger in October of 2018, a re-audit occurred in February of 2019, which produced more items that needed to be addressed. This was more applicable for the Sheriff's Office and these changes have been involved. Therefore, a NCCHC update in January of 2019, would have been unsuccessful had we pursued accreditation at that time.

The juvenile facilities continue to implement changes in accordance with NCCHC Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities standards for the purpose of obtaining accreditation. On January 1, 2019, the juvenile facilities began a one-year pre-accreditation review period to show standard compliance in order to apply for accreditation. On February 27, 2019, WellPath, Probation and the Department of Behavioral Wellness conducted an in-house, pre-NCCHC audit with the assistance of an outside auditor. The auditor was able to clarify aspects of the accreditation criteria and provide further guidance to assist in ensuring compliance. During the audit, processes and standards were discussed and an action plan developed containing specific assignments and deadlines to address identified areas. It is noted that accreditation will require assistance from each of the agencies, including Behavioral Wellness, who has voiced concurrence with the plan and their area of responsibility. The juvenile team met with the auditor again on April 1, 2019, to discuss the action plan. In addition to working toward NCCHC accreditation, WellPath and Probation applied for reaccreditation with the Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ), which they received on October 30, 2018.

Along with the NCCHC change in standards, the Sheriff's Office and other County entities have been involved in negotiations with Wellpath for healthcare services to encompass both the Main Jail and North Branch Jail. Negotiations should be concluding in the near future and we anticipate an amendment to the agreement will be presented to your Board later this year.

Closing:

Wellpath, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Office will return to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days after July 1st, 2020, for the next annual report. This will continue to allow the presentation to occur after budget sessions and provide Fiscal Year statistics; however, given the significant differences in adult and juvenile accreditation standards and a divergence in how the standards are applied and addressed in terms of operations and inspection mechanisms, it is anticipated the Probation Department and Sheriff's Office will present their respective reports separately in 2020.

In closing, as demonstrated in the annual report, the partnership between CFMG (Wellpath), the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Office continues to strengthen and advance. This is due to the continued dedication and collaboration between all of the involved County departments and numerous community groups. Collaboration has been instrumental in our success this past year as our relationships with community caregivers have continued to grow which has allowed for the advancement of our healthcare system. Thus, we have been able to continue to develop a system of healthcare with a persistent assurance of providing experienced and enhanced services to our mutual clients.

Not only do we recognize the importance of collaboration, we recognize the importance of providing healthcare services which meet or exceed community standards. This goal drives us to not settle, but instead lead lasting change with all of our partners to ensure the best healthcare services available.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

- A. Wellpath Annual Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities Report 2018-2019
- B. PowerPoint Presentation

Authored by:

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