



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **Agenda Number:**
AGENDA LETTER

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: August 16, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Chris Ribeiro, Chief Financial Officer,
Behavioral Wellness, 805-884-1694
SUBJECT: **Behavioral Wellness - Early Psychosis Intervention Grant Award Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) FY 20-25 Agreement Termination**

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 Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to terminate the multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC089) with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for the Early Psychosis Intervention Plus Program for youth in the amount of \$2,000,000 for a four-year period from the date of execution of the agreement, March 9, 2021 through February 28, 2025;
- B. Direct the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to issue a letter substantially similar to the draft provided in Attachment A, terminating the grant agreement, effective September 30, 2022; and
- C. 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 on the agenda to request that the Board approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) or designee to terminate the multi-year grant agreement with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for the Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI Plus) Program for youth due to lack of adequate staffing to oversee and perform program services. BWell has always and will continue to treat youth who are experiencing first episode psychotic break. However, those services are not offered in a structured, standardized, evidence-based practice model. To date, the training and infrastructure of the EPI Plus was not accomplished, therefore there are no youth receiving services in this specialized treatment protocol. A cornerstone of the EPI Plus program is that it is a team-based care model and the standard approach of BWell's clinical practice in both its youth and adult systems of care is also a team-based care approach, further ensuring effective treatment for this client population. Moving forward, BWell will provide specialty training and refresher training for staff on the how to identify, assess, and effectively treat psychotic disorders in youth and young adults. These trainings will include additional treatment options for psychotic disorders, specific interventions such as cognitive-behavioral therapy for psychosis, and addressing treatment of psychotic disorders in special populations, inclusive of Latin X youth.

Background:

On August 27, 2020, BWell was awarded a \$2,000,000 four (4) year grant from the MHSOAC. Assembly Bill 1315 (Mullin) established the EPI Plus Program and the EPI Plus Advisory Committee to advise MHSOAC regarding the allocation of funds for a competitive selection process to expand the provision of high-quality, evidence-based early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention services in the state.

On March 9, 2021, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors authorized BWell to execute the four-year grant agreement with the MHSOAC. The grant agreement requires that the use of local funds listed in the grant application that are committed to support the program and that the County must continue to provide service under the program through local contributions after grant funding is expended. Match funds are a total of \$1,839,909 consisting of Medi-Cal Reimbursements, local funds and private funds.

BWell is requesting termination of the MHSOAC EPI Grant Agreement due to lack of adequate staffing to oversee and perform program services. BWell was never able to fully implement the program as planned. Given the significant challenges of maintaining and recruiting staff in the past year, BWell was unable to hire the adequate number of staff positions to fully implement the program. Initially, reassigning staff was tried to at least begin the program in a portion of the BWell system. However, the growing caseload demands and relatively smaller number of youths requiring care for services not related to a first episode psychosis continued to interfere with creating the capacity to implement this evidence-based strategy which requires fidelity to a very prescribed model. During the first full grant year, BWell spent less than half of the funds it was given and was notified by grantor in May of 2022 that BWell would not be provided funding from the year two allocation until year one grant funds were fully spent and accounted for. After further evaluation, it was determined that BWell did not have the capacity and readiness to effectively administer the EPI program. Therefore, termination of the Standard Agreement for the EPI Plus Program for youth is requested. Per its terms, the grant agreement may be terminated by the County with prior written notice to MHSOAC.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes, for fiscal year 2021 through 2022.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 20-21 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 21-22 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 23-25 Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost for FY 2025:</u>
General Fund					
State	\$ 401,816	\$ 532,280	\$ 532,280	\$ 533,624	\$ 2,000,000
Federal					
Fees					
Other:					
Total	\$ 401,816	\$ 532,280	\$ 532,280	\$ 533,624	\$ 2,000,000

Narrative: As of 4/30/2022, MHSOAC has issued payment for FY 2020-21 (year 1) totaling (\$401,816). Through 6/30/2022 BWell has incurred grant costs totaling only \$265,320. The balance of unspent funds totaling \$136,496 will be returned to MHSOAC upon effective termination of this agreement. This elimination of grant funding will not have an anticipated impact on BWell Budget, as the grant funded positions have been vacated as of 7/1/2022, and will not be filled. No additional grant related costs will be incurred as of 7/1/2022, so the department anticipates that this grant termination will have no net financial impact to the department in the current fiscal nor in any subsequent fiscal year.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: MHSOAC EPI Grant Contract FY 2020-2025 Termination Letter

Attachment B: MHSOAC EPI Grant Agreement FY 2020-2025 executed (No. 19MHSOAC089)

Authored by:

A. Foschaar