



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: July 11, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: SHC Services, Inc., DBA Supplemental Health Care FY 23-24 Services Agreement for Healthcare Recruitment and Placement Services

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, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **SHC Services, Inc., DBA Supplemental Health Care** (not a local vendor) for healthcare recruitment and placement services with a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$300,000** for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024;
- B. Determine, in accordance with Government Code section 31000.4, that it is in the economic interest of the County to provide temporary help by the Agreement to meet the immediate clinical staffing needs of the Department of Behavioral Wellness that cannot be met through the County's hiring process;
- C. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement and make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26, 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
- D. 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:

The above-referenced item is on the agenda to request approval of the renewal of the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with SHC Services, Inc. (SHC) for the provision of healthcare staff recruitment and placement services. This recruitment placement is specifically for the classification of a temporary Psychiatric Registered Nurse. SHC has been providing nursing staff for the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) since 2020. The Department of Behavioral Wellness has had success working with this contractor to provide temporary staff for these hard-to-fill positions. Therefore, the Department of Behavioral Wellness would like to continue to contract with SHC for staffing to meet these mandatory requirements.

Background:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, including psychiatric and nursing services at its County facilities. Across the nation, there is an ongoing shortage of psychiatric and nursing services. BWell has experienced ongoing challenges that mirror the national challenges of attracting and retaining qualified registered nurses to work at BWell facilities.

On June 28, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors authorized BWell to enter into an agreement with SHC for the provision of healthcare recruitment and placement services for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. BWell currently uses SHC to recruit and recommend locum tenens Psychiatric Nurses at BWell facilities, at the request of BWell staff. The locum tenens Psychiatric Nurses recruited by SHC provide mandated psychiatric nursing services such as; diagnostic evaluations, medication evaluations, and prescriptions for psychiatric medications; review, revision, and approval of client assessments; and participation in the development, review, revision, and approval of client treatment plans.

Due to a noted decrease in recruitment for permanent nursing staff within BWell and difficulty meeting permanent nursing staff requirements, there is a need for temporary nursing staff. Approval of the recommended actions will allow SHC to continue to place (1) needed traveling staff to fulfill psychiatric health services, allowing Behavioral Wellness to continue to provide mandated mental health services to BWell clients.

Performance Outcomes

SHC staff are performing in line with the County’s civil service providers and services are being provided in accordance with generally accepted practices. SHC staff participate in medical staff meetings, are part of medical staff meeting peer reviews, and respond appropriately to communications and clinical feedback.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 23-24 Cost</u>	
General Fund			
State	\$ 150,000.00		
Federal	\$ 150,000.00		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding source is included in the FY 23-24 Adopted Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing temporary staffing services, there is a risk that temporary personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in the performance of assigned duties. BWell may terminate the agreement for cause or convenience, and the contractor provides professional liability insurance for the professionals to mitigate these risks. In addition, the County pays only the contractor's fees when the County utilizes a healthcare professional referred by the contractor; there are no monthly fees attached to this agreement.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to Amber Foschaar at cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: SHC Services, Inc., DBA Supplemental Health Care FY 23-24 Board Contract

Authored by:

A. Foschaar