



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: August 27, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner, (805) 681-4290
Contact Info: Cassandra Marking, Custody Lieutenant, (805) 681-4091
SUBJECT: California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG/Wellpath) 2023 Annual Report for Healthcare Services at Sheriff's Jail Facilities

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the 2023 annual report (Attachment A) prepared by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG/Wellpath) regarding the Agreement for Medical Services within Sheriff's Office jail facilities; 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:

This item is before your Board to receive a detailed annual report from CFMG/Wellpath, pursuant to the Agreement, containing a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and examination of significant trends and issues.

Background:

On February 28, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the Sheriff and the Probation Department Agreement with CFMG/Wellpath for healthcare services (medical and mental health services) at the jail and for medical services only for Probation's juvenile facilities. On April 1, 2017, CFMG officially began providing services for the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. In October 2018, CFMG

joined with Correct Care Solutions (CCS), CFMG's parent company, Correctional Medical Group Companies (CMGC) and became Wellpath.

Your Board has authorized six (6) amendments to the Agreement with Wellpath, with the most recent occurring in June 2024. The current contract with Wellpath is set to expire on March 31, 2025.

Pursuant to the Agreement, Wellpath is required to submit an annual report to your Board which contains a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and an examination of significant trends and issues. For the Sheriff's Office specifically, Wellpath fell out of compliance with this requirement for the 2022 annual report but delivered their 2022 annual report in December 2023. The Sheriff's Office intends to provide future annual reports within 90 days of year end.

The following key components are discussed in the CFMG/Wellpath annual report for calendar year 2023 (Attachment A):

- Services Provided
- Annual Statistics
- Competency Restoration Services
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Discharge Planning
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara* Compliance
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)

Wellpath received NCCHC accreditation at the Main Jail in 2020 and recently received provisional re-accreditation in February 2024. In order to achieve NCCHC accreditation, Wellpath must demonstrate that 100% of essential standards and 85% of important standards are met. In the provisional accreditation report, NCCHC identified 13 of the 37 applicable essential standards and 4 of the 19 applicable important standards which were not fully demonstrated. The NCCHC provisional accreditation report is attached as Attachment E. Following the provisional accreditation, a focused survey was completed by NCCHC in June 2024. Wellpath and the Sheriff's Office are awaiting the results of this survey and determination of final accreditation for the Main Jail facility from NCCHC, which is expected in the coming weeks. In June 2024, Wellpath applied for NCCHC accreditation for the Northern Branch Jail, with an accreditation survey date to be identified in the coming months.

Performance Measures:

The Sheriff's Office in partnership with Public Health and Behavioral Wellness (BWell) are presenting results of 2023 quarterly monitoring as well as efforts implemented and planned to address deficiencies in monitoring by the Sheriff's Office and/or Wellpath. In late 2023, Public Health and BWell modified their quarterly monitoring tools to add additional areas of monitoring and to monitor specific areas relative to the *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara* Remedial Plan. In recent months, the Public Health and BWell quarterly monitoring tools expanded from five (5) items each being monitored to twenty-three (23) and thirty-six (36) items being monitored, respectively. In addition to monitoring more provisions, the enhanced monitoring tools more closely monitor timelines of intake screening, to more clearly address the medication verification processes, to ensure patients with chronic care needs are receiving adequate and timely services related to their diagnoses, and that individuals with mental illness receive appropriate and timely care. Due to the expansion of the monitoring tool from prior quarters, only the 2023 Quarter 4 (Q4) monitoring report are available and included in Attachments B and C.

The monitoring tool reports several areas in which Wellpath was providing adequate care, but also identified areas of non-compliance, some of which generated Corrective Action Plans (CAP). In Q4 of 2023, five (5) areas were identified by Public Health and five (5) areas were identified by BWell that required a CAP, which included the following: TB testing, timeliness of initial health assessments, EKG orders for hypertensive patients, medication verification and bridging, intake assessments and

intake referrals, overnight medical checks, continued mental health services inclusive of checks, discharge planning, and crisis services. When developing a CAP, Wellpath meets with BWell or Public Health to identify the specific deficiencies noted in the monitoring and develops a plan to remedy deficiencies in the future. Many of the CAP's include additional staff training, changes to policies and/or procedures and/or the addition or re-allocation of staffing to perform specific functions or tasks. The Sheriff's Office and Wellpath will discuss the proposed CAP in today's presentation.

The Sheriff's Office is also presenting the Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2023 Annual Report, which was previously presented to your Board in March 2024. This report is being provided again to provide context regarding grievances received from incarcerated persons relative to health and mental health care and will be combined in future annual reports from the Sheriff's healthcare provider for your Board's consideration. The Sheriff's Office intends to provide these reports annually in conjunction with the healthcare provider's annual reports in future years within 90 days of calendar year end.

In 2023, Wellpath performed 117 Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) studies between both jail facilities. These studies identify specific policies or requirements which Wellpath is expected to adhere to and involve a detailed review of patient health records to determine whether appropriate care and interventions were provided. Wellpath reports out on CQI studies to the Medical Administration Committee (MAC) monthly. The MAC consists of representatives from Wellpath, the Sheriff's Office, Public Health and BWell. Similar to County Public Health and BWell monitoring, when a deficiency is noted in a CQI study performed by Wellpath, Wellpath develops a CAP and presents the CAP to the MAC for approval. The Sheriff's Office, Public Health and BWell are working in collaboration with Wellpath to create a more effective MAC process which will focus more on identifying areas of non-compliance, correcting deficiencies and monitoring performance in subsequent months with a goal of increasing performance and patient care.

Over the past year, the Sheriff's Office has more closely monitored staffing shift vacancies of Wellpath. Section 17.2 of the Agreement with Wellpath identifies credits for missed hours not provided by the Contractor if they are unable to staff positions/posts. The Sheriff's Office is actively meeting with Wellpath to resolve the issues regarding staffing credits in accordance with section 17.2 of the Agreement and will bring this item back to your Board in the future. Wellpath provides detailed staffing reports to the Sheriff's Office which are then rectified by Sheriff's Office staff to determine the hours not covered in accordance with the Agreement. Any discrepancies noted in the reports are then provided to Wellpath and the two parties confer on any modifications to the staffing coverage reports before credits pursuant to the Agreement are authorized and accepted.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

There are no fiscal or facility impacts associated with the acceptance and filing of this report. The current CFMG/Wellpath Agreement approved by your Board is set to expire on March 31, 2025.

Attachments:

Attachment A: 2023 Annual Report of Wellpath Medical, Dental, & Mental Health Services

Attachment B: 2023 Wellpath Jail Medical Record Review Summary

Attachment C: Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Provider Wellpath Quarterly Monitoring Tool – Q4 2023

Attachment D: Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2023 Annual Report

Attachment E: National Commission on Correctional Health Care Health Services Accreditation Report

Attachment F: Wellpath SB Annual Report 2023 Board Presentation

Authored by:

Ryan Sullivan, Custody Commander – Sheriff's Office