



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:** September 20, 2022  
**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: John M. Doyel, MA, LAADC, Assistant Director  
Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220  
**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness – California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
County Mental Health Plan (MHP) FY 22-27 Agreement No. 22-20133

**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, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to execute a new retroactive \$0 five-year County Mental Health Plan (MHP) (Agreement No. 22-20133) with the California **Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)** for the provision of Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027; and
- B. Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The County Department of Behavioral Wellness serves as the County’s Mental Health Plan (MHP), providing medically necessary specialty mental health services to residents who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries. DHCS issues MHP contracts to each county in order to participate in the Medi-Cal program to receive Federal Financial Participation (FFP) to offset the costs of delivering mandated specialty mental health care services.

On August 3, 2022, DHCS provided a new retroactive MHP Agreement No. 22-20133 with a start date of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. This item is being brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval of the recommended actions authorizing the Behavioral Wellness Director to sign the MHP agreement as required by DHCS and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

**Background:**

The County MHP Agreement is entered into in accordance with the Welfare and Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code § 14680 through §14727. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14712 directs DHCS to implement and administer Managed Mental Health Care for Medi-Cal eligible residents of this state through contracts with mental health plans. Per the County MHP Agreement, the County of Santa Barbara agrees to operate the MHP for Santa Barbara County.

The County MHP Agreement specifies the terms and conditions under which counties in the state provide medically necessary Specialty Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through county-operated and contracted programs (Covered Services). Covered Services include inpatient psychiatric hospital services, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, day treatment/day rehabilitation and an array of outpatient services such as crisis intervention, therapy, rehabilitation services and case management. The contract also specifies requirements of the Medi-Cal program pertaining to Quality Care Management and standards regarding electronic exchange of Protected Health Information.

Approval of the recommended action will allow for the continued provision of medically necessary Specialty Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries of Santa Barbara County.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Although the County MHP Agreement FY 22-27 No. 22-20133 is a zero-dollar contract, it is budgeted, and DHCS will process and pay claims pursuant to the agreement.

The County MHP's authority to be paid is established in accordance with Chapter 3, Part 2, Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code along with Sections 5600, 5750, and 5650. DHCS explained that it is not necessary to develop and include individual county funding estimates for the five-year term of the contract.

**Key Contract Risks:**

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments. BWell includes language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County; however, approximately 70% of annual Federal Financial Participation (FFP) is generated by services at county clinics, and 30% from contracted service providers.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) copy of the Minute Order to Bethany Le at [bethle@sbcbbwell.org](mailto:bethle@sbcbbwell.org) and one (1) copy to the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbbwell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbbwell.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: DHCS FY 22-27 County MHP Agreement No. 22-20133

**Authored by:**

B. Le

DHCS MHP FY 22-27