



**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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Behavioral Wellness  
**Department No.:** 043  
**Agenda Date:** April 8, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s): Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director,  
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220

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**Contact Info:** Jamie Huthsing, LMFT, Assistant Director of Compliance and  
Quality Care Management, Behavioral Wellness,  
(805) 681-5220  
Caitlin Lepore, PhD, LCSW, Research and Evaluation Manager,  
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5200

**SUBJECT: California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) FY 2024-2025 Participation  
Agreement for Psychiatric Inpatient Concurrent Review (PICR) Program  
Administrative and Fiscal Services**

**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 Chair to execute a Participation Agreement with **California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)** for Psychiatric Inpatient Concurrent Review (PICR) Program services (No. 11435-SB-PICR-24\_25) for a maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$37,184** from April 8, 2025 through June 30, 2025; and
- b) Determine that the above-recommended action is not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a governmental funding mechanism and/or fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with CalMHSA, PICR PA No. 11435-SB-PICR-24\_25, to conduct concurrent review and authorization of services for all psychiatric inpatient hospital and psychiatric health facilities in the County for a Maximum Agreement Amount not to exceed **\$37,184**, inclusive of a \$89.60 Service Fee per Review, from April 8, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

**Background:**

In 2014, The Board of Supervisors approved the County's membership with CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under Gov. Code §6500 et seq. that serves California counties as an independent administrative and fiscal intergovernmental structure for jointly developing, funding, and implementing mental health services and educational programs at the state, regional and local levels. CalMHSA also provides its members with the ability to deal jointly with the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), Department of State Hospitals (DSH), the Behavioral Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commissions (BHSOAC), (formerly Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)), and the legislature.

**PICR:** DHCS state and federal regulations require County Mental Health Plan (MHP) Specialty Mental Services (SMHS) and Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) authorization of specialty health services. To ensure compliance with Parity in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Final Rule (Parity Rule; Title 42 to the C.F.R §438.910), DHCS Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 19-026 requires MHP's to operate utilization management (UM) program that ensures beneficiaries have appropriate access to SMHS. MHP's are required to conduct concurrent review and authorization for all psychiatric inpatient hospital services and psychiatric health facility services. MHP's shall conduct concurrent review of treatment authorizations following the first day of admission.

CalMHSA has entered into a services agreement with Keystone Peer Review Organization, Inc. (Kepro), for concurrent review and authorization of inpatient psychiatric hospital services on behalf of multiple California County MHPs. By utilizing Kepro's technology-assisted concurrent review process, CalMHSA will ensure a consistent and efficient review process across participating counties and will support MHP compliance with DHCS BHIN 19-026 and the Parity Rule.

On September 13, 2022, the Board approved the execution of Participation Agreement No. 1158-PICR-2022-SB ("Participation Agreement"), with CalMHSA, to conduct concurrent review and authorization of inpatient psychiatric hospital services, on behalf of multiple California County MHPs, for a maximum contract amount not to exceed \$178,483.20, from September 13, 2022 through December 31, 2024;

The County and CalMHSA desire to enter into a new PICR Participation Agreement No. 11435-SB-PICR-24\_25 to conduct concurrent review and authorization of services for all psychiatric inpatient hospital and psychiatric health facilities in the County for a Maximum Agreement Amount not to exceed \$37,184, from April 8, 2025 through June 30, 2025. This Agreement will also serve to align Agreement term date to the end of the fiscal year. The executed JPA-BAA 1327-BAA-2022 between CalMHSA and BWell, Section 17.1 Service Arrangement, allows for continued service from the end date of the previous Participation Agreement No. 1158-PICR-2022-SB of December 31, 2024 through the execution of this new Agreement, April 8, 2025.

**Performance Measures:**

CalMHSA facilitates the efficient use of resources for multiple public entities by providing group purchasing power, joint development of Requests for Proposal (RFPs) and contracts for services,

reduced overhead costs through sharing of the expenses of administration and reporting, and shared research and strategies. CalMHSA's administration of this program will result in greater efficiency in the implementation of these mandated services for compliance with state and federal requirements. CalMHSA provided satisfactory reporting to ensure SBC BWell maintained compliance with the requirements.

**Contract Renewals:**

The County may withdraw from the Program upon six months' written notice to CalMHSA as a measure of reducing contract risks. CalMHSA has provided satisfactory reporting to ensure Santa Barbara County BWell maintained compliance with state and federal requirements.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2024-2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund		
State	18,592	<b>18,592</b>
Federal	18,592	<b>18,592</b>
Fees		
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,184</b>	<b>37,184</b>

Funding for this agreement will be from 50% Federal, Medi-Cal Revenue and 50% State, Mental Health Services Act allocation sources.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the Agreement to Sara Hernandez at [sahernandez@sbcbswell.org](mailto:sahernandez@sbcbswell.org) and the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

Once executed by the Board of Supervisors and Minute Order is received, this amendment will be signed by Dr. Amie Miller, Executive Director of CalMHSA. A final copy will then be returned to the Clerk of the Board.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – CalMHSA PICR FY 2024-2025 PA No. 11435-SB-PICR-24\_25

**Attachment B** – CalMHSA PICR FY 2022-2025 PA No. 1158-PICR-2022-SB, Executed

**Authored by:**

Sara Hernandez

Contracts Analyst

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