



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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: June 25, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Tanja Heitman, Assistant CEO

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
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SUBJECT: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Report on Wellpath Contract Services and Update on Justice System Improvements

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors’ response to the 2023-24 Grand Jury report entitled “Wellpath Contract Services Provided to Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff’s Office”;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A, and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara Superior Court;
- c) Receive and file staff’s report related to Justice System Improvements; and
- d) Determine pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On April 16, 2024, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury distributed a report entitled “Wellpath Contract Services Provided to Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff’s Office.” Today, the Board will consider the proposed responses to the report, adopt their preferred responses, and authorize the Board

Chair to sign the response letters. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of the report issuance.

Background:

In the report entitled “Wellpath Contract Services Provided to Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff’s Office,” the Grand Jury concluded that there have been deficiencies in the Wellpath contract administration, as well as provision of services, including: frequent occurrence of staffing shortfalls at the Santa Barbara County jails, which could lead to delayed healthcare provision for inmates; a lack of accounting within the Sheriff’s Office that did not acknowledge Wellpath staffing shortfalls which exceeded the agreed-upon 2% vacancy level for which credits should have been applied; an absence of 24/7 mental health providers at both County jail sites; and delayed annual reporting by Wellpath to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors is named a responder to Findings 1, 2, 3, and 4, and Recommendations 1a, 1b, 1c, 2d, 3c, 4a, and 4b. Refer to Attachment A for the County’s responses.

Related Justice System Improvements

Today’s presentation also includes an update on Public Health and Behavioral Wellness monitoring of the medical and mental health services provided by Wellpath. Monitoring tools have been recently updated by both departments to include additional clinical elements. Recent monitoring tools and associated corrective action plans (CAPs) can be found in Attachment C (Public Health) and Attachment D (Behavioral Wellness).

Although not specific to a particular Grand Jury recommendation or finding in this report, there are also other criminal justice system related improvements underway that align with and support the intent of the Grand Jury’s recommendations. Key initiatives are highlighted below to provide greater context to the Board on these issues.

- The Sheriff’s Office is currently incorporating additional data points on the [Sheriff’s Office data dashboard](#), including data elements related to the number of seriously mentally ill incarcerated persons, as well as the number of those participating in the Early Access Stabilization Services (EASS), Jail-Based Competency Treatment (JBCT), and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs.
- The County’s criminal justice partners have collaboratively developed programs to support diversion of appropriate individuals from incarceration, including:
 - Launching a Holistic Reentry, Early Access, and Diversion (“READY”) pilot program, that provides early representation at or before arraignment to support diversion for individuals charged with misdemeanors who could safely be released from jail and instead connected with services or other support mechanisms. The READY pilot launched in North County in January 2024 and continues to expand its reach as the program becomes fully established.
 - Launching a Rapid Diversion Program pilot to support diversion of individuals with behavioral health needs and who are facing low-level charges. The pilot is beginning in North County with hopes to expand countywide; as of the writing of this Board letter, it was anticipated that the pilot would commence on June 17, 2024.
 - Expanding the use of Alternative Sentencing, in particular through the Electronic Monitoring program, through targeted areas of program enhancement and expansion of eligibility. The program is currently on track to achieve the goal set by the Sheriff’s Office and Probation of a 50% increase in program size by November 2024.
- The upcoming implementation of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) will allow the County to provide expanded Medi-Cal healthcare and re-entry services to individuals in custody.

- The County's updated Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) is now available [on the County website](#) and continues to be updated through an iterative process including key subject matter experts, agency heads, and feedback from the public. The SIM details how individuals with behavioral health challenges come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system and assists in identifying gaps. In the coming months, embedded links will be added for the intercept points that describe each activity and point of contact.

Additional Agencies Required to Respond:

The Sheriff's Office was also required to respond to this Grand Jury report (Attachment B).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board's action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

1. As per Recommended Action b, please forward the original signed letters and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letters and a copy of the minute order to Shanna Dawson, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO's Office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response – "Wellpath Contract Services Provided to Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff's Office"

Attachment B: Sheriff's Office Response – "Wellpath Contract Services Provided to Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff's Office"

Attachment C: Public Health Wellpath Quarterly Monitoring Tools and CAPs

Attachment D: Behavioral Wellness Wellpath Quarterly Monitoring Tools and CAPs

Authored by:

Nicole Parmelee, Principal Analyst, Criminal Justice

CC:

Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner

Toni Navarro, Behavioral Wellness Director

Mouhanad Hammami, Public Health Director