



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: May 16, 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: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness - Renewal Contractor on Payroll (COP) Agreements FY 23-24 Fred Berge, M.D.

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 and authorize the Chair to execute a Contractor on Payroll Agreement with **Fred Berge, M.D.** to provide psychiatric services for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for a Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$141,294.40** (Attachment A);
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which 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 Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP). The above-referenced contract complies with the Santa Barbara County Contractor on Payroll Policy, approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 20, 2015. Approval of the above-referenced contract will ensure the continued provision of critical mental health and related services. Psychiatric services include development, review, revision, and approval of client assessments and treatment plans, administration of medical histories and physicals, prescribe medication and treatments, order tests, review clinical records, and provide evaluations.

Background:

BWell has experienced ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining psychiatrists and other individuals who are certified and licensed to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services. The pandemic has only exacerbated the challenge to hire qualified staff. Although the County maintains ongoing recruitments, it rarely produces enough qualified candidates to meet the department’s needs. COP’s have helped to bridge the gap and provide essential mental health treatment services to clients.

Performance Outcomes:

Dr Berge is performing his duties as expected, providing services for several clinics, the 1) AB109 clinic in Santa Barbara, in cooperation with the Probation Department, 2) the Calle Real adult outpatient clinic, and 3) the Recovery Learning Center. He is providing satisfactory levels of reimbursable services for the Department.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Cost:</u>
General Fund	
State	\$70,647.20
Federal	\$70,647.20
Fees	
Other:	
Total	\$141,294.40

Narrative: The above referenced contract is funded by a combination of State and Federal revenue (Medi-Cal/Realignment Funds). The funding sources have been included in the FY 23-24 Proposed Budget and are contingent upon Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future Medi-Cal audit disallowances. However, BWell provides training to the Contractors to minimize financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract to dmorales@sbcbswell.org, bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org, and Stefan Brewer, Employment and Workforce Planning Division, Human Resources Department at SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Berge FY 23-24 BC COP

Authored by:

D. Morales