



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: December 13, 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: Katie Cohen, Psy.D., LMFT, Division Chief of Clinical
Outpatient Operations
Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220
**SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Santa Barbara County Education Office Agreement
Renewal for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-25**

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 an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO)** in support of the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant Agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082 A.2), for mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$1,593,532** for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025, contingent upon the Board’s approval of MHSSA funds (Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Grant Agreement No. 19MHSOAC082 A.2) at the December 13, 2022 Board hearing;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to rescind the permission regarding publicity or endorsement per Section 12 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 25 of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E of the Agreement, all without altering the Maximum Contract Amount and without requiring formal amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and

- C. 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:

This item is on the agenda to request approval of the FY 22-25 Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$1,593,532** for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. SBCEO is a subcontractor under the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant award with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Behavioral Wellness to fulfill grant program requirements to expand access to mental health services in partnership with schools to children and youth.

Background:

On September 15, 2020, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to accept the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant award and execute the multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082) with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for a total of \$4,000,000 over a four-year period of 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2024. On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Behavioral Wellness to execute the first amendment to the grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082 A1) to extend the grant period through September 30, 2025, and to reallocate funds among grant years as necessary, with no change to the total amount of \$4,000,000.

As part of programmatic requirements, the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) was selected by the Department of Behavioral Wellness as a subcontractor to serve as a liaison by expanding access to mental health services in schools through the Navigator program. On July 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisors executed an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with SBCEO as a subcontractor under the MHSSA grant award with the MHSOAC in the amount of \$465,413 over a one-year period of 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2021. On December 7, 2021, the Board of Supervisors renewed the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with SBCEO as a subcontractor under the MHSSA grant award with the MHSOAC in the amount of \$462,788 over a one-year period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

Mental health services for children and youth under the Agreement are delivered by staff hired specifically for grant-related positions that include Navigators through SBCEO and Behavioral Wellness Clinicians, Research & Evaluator, and Project Manager. The Program is coordinated through a Partnership Group that is co-facilitated by Behavioral Wellness and SBCEO and includes representatives from each participating school district, community-based organizations, primary healthcare and insurance providers. Activities under the program include suicide prevention, drop-out prevention, placement assistance for students needing higher levels of care, and outreach to high-risk youth including foster, LGBTQ+, and students who have been removed from the school environment through suspension and/or expulsion. Through the formalized partnership, students are also provided with prevention and early intervention programming to support reductions in mental health stigma, and staff are provided with professional development opportunities to increase their capacity around student mental health.

On April 18, 2022, the MHSOAC released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the 3rd round of MHSSA grant funding. The County submitted its application, and MHSOAC issued a Notice of Intent to Award

on July 6, 2022 naming Santa Barbara County as one of the selected counties to receive a contract award. On September 20, 2022, the Board authorized a First Amendment to the FY 21-22 SBCEO Agreement to extend the term through December 31, 2022, to bridge the gap while awaiting receipt of the new grant agreement from the MHSOAC for the 3rd round of funding.

The updated grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082 A.2) includes an additional \$1,022,151, bringing the new total amount of MHSSA grant funding to **\$5,022,151** over the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2026. Some of the additional funding will be used to increase the FTE allocation for the BWell Clinicians involved in the project from 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE) to 3.0 FTE to cover needs countywide, and to add a 0.25 FTE SBCEO Health Navigator Supervisor position to cover the needed administrative duties and supervision for the Health Navigators within SBCEO. The funding will cover additional MHSSA program expenses for SBCEO such as mileage, outreach materials, and materials for groups and sessions needed to work with youth and families. The funding will also be utilized to expand trainings for school and MHSSA staff around evidence-based models of trainings for youth and mental health.

Performance Measure:

MHSSA grants are to be used to provide support services that address the following goals:

1. Preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling,
2. Improving timely access to services for underserved populations,
3. Providing outreach to families, employers, primary health care providers, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness,
4. Reducing the stigma associated with the diagnosis of a mental illness or seeking mental health services,
5. Reducing discrimination against people with mental illness, and
6. Preventing negative outcomes in the targeted population including, but not limited to:
 - a. Suicide and attempted suicide
 - b. Incarceration
 - c. School failure and dropout
 - d. Unemployment
 - e. Prolonged suffering
 - f. Homelessness
 - g. Removal of children from their homes, and
 - h. Involuntary mental health detentions.

The collaboration between SBCEO and BWell is going well. The MHSSA Program Manager meets regularly with SBCEO to discuss, collaborate, develop and plan the program. For the current year implementation, the project focus is on expansion throughout the remainder of the County. This year, the team has begun providing trainings to school staff, youth and parents on various topics related to mental health and community resources. The program continues to provide outreach in the community through school events, raising awareness of resources in the community and providing education materials about mental wellness. The Health Navigators this year are placed on some school sites and will be providing groups to youth on various topics around skills building including mindfulness, self-care, conflict resolution, and communication. Since the program start in October 25, 2021, the collaborative partnership served a total of forty-seven (47) referrals, provided three (3) rounds of groups, and successfully linked 95% of referrals to ongoing mental health services. Of these referrals, 8% were crisis responses linked to the appropriate supports, and 4% were referrals for non-mental health resources. The MHSSA program and partners hold a monthly collaborative meeting for the school

liaisons/Navigators and community partners that takes place virtually to allow for cross-county participation. The MHSSA program is in collaboration with a partner agency to propose a Youth Advocacy Group cross-county. The next steps the MHSSA program will be working on this year are: continuing to build partnerships; planning for the sustainability of the program; and determining how the program fits alongside other MHSOAC school-based initiatives that are coming to the County from the State.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 22-23</u> <u>Cost:</u>	<u>FY 23-24</u> <u>Cost:</u>	<u>FY 24-25</u> <u>Cost:</u>	<u>Total Cost for</u> <u>FY 22-25:</u>
General Fund				
State	\$ 531,177	\$ 531,177	\$ 531,178	\$ 1,593,532
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 531,177	\$ 531,177	\$ 531,178	\$ 1,593,532

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded through State funds and covered through MHSOAC grant funding. In a separate Board agenda item, BWell will request Board approval to execute the Second Amendment to the MHSOAC Grant Agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082 A.2) and approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0008632. The Second Amendment to the MHSOAC Grant Agreement provides an additional \$1,022,151 in funding supplementing the existing grant award of \$4,000,000. Budget Revision Request No. 0008632 will increase the budget of the MHSSA Grant program by \$340,717 for FY 2022-23.

Key Contract Risks:

This grant agreement is cost reimbursed; therefore, MHSOAC will reimburse Behavioral Wellness based upon the expenditures submitted quarterly. As with any contract funded by State sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments. Behavioral Wellness contracts include language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County. Negotiations with SBCEO resulted in changes to Section 12 (No Publicity or Endorsement) of the County’s Standard Terms and Conditions. Potential risks associated with these changes have been mitigated with input from the applicable departments.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) executed Agreement to Bethany Le at bethle@sbcbswell.org and to the BWell Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: SBCEO Agreement FY 22-25 Board Contract

Authored by:

B. Le