




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:** Probation Department  
**Department No.:** 022  
**Agenda Date:** September 16, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer   
Contact: Damon Fletcher, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 Wellpath, Department of Behavioral Wellness, and County Health  
Department Annual Reports for Medical and Mental Health Services at the Juvenile  
Justice Center

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Department of Behavioral  
Wellness, County Health Department

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file the 2024 annual reports from California Forensic Medical Group/ Wellpath for medical services provided to youth housed at the juvenile facilities (Attachment A), from the Department of Behavioral Wellness for mental health services provided to youth housed in juvenile facilities (Attachment B), and from the County Health Department for the medical record audits conducted of Wellpath and Department of Behavioral Wellness services (Attachment C); and
- B. Determine that the recommended action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended action is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

### **Summary Text:**

This item is before your Board to receive the 2024 Annual Report of Wellpath Medical Services for healthcare services delivered at the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center (JJC); the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) Annual Report 2024 on the Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services (JJMHS) program, which provides clinical treatment services for youth housed at the JJC; and the County Health Department 2024 JJC Healthcare Annual Report on California Forensic Medical Group/Wellpath (Wellpath) medical record audits. As requested by your Board, the attached annual report from Wellpath includes a comprehensive review of service utilization data, program activities, and key trends and issues identified throughout the calendar year. This annual reporting requirement fulfills Section 15.20 of the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor between the County and Wellpath.

### **Discussion:**

The attached 2024 Annual Report of Wellpath Medical Services (Attachment A), covering the period from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, highlights the scope of services provided. Wellpath nursing staff completed 6,951 on-site encounters at both juvenile facilities, encompassing sick visits, segregation checks, immunizations, and laboratory services. The pediatrician conducted a total of 1,560 clinic visits, including 899 Comprehensive Well Child evaluations, 508 sick visits, and 152 chronic care visits. The most frequent chronic health concerns among youth were asthma, obesity, and acne. Additional major health issues included psychosocial challenges, such as sexually transmitted infections, substance use disorders, and trauma-related mental health conditions. Due to ongoing dental health needs, 119 dental care visits were facilitated through offsite specialists in 2023.

In 2024, the average daily population at the JJC rose to 34, compared to 32 in the previous year. Correspondingly, there was a notable increase in medical and psychiatric medication usage. Wellpath administered 6,169 doses of medical medications in 2024, compared to 4,533 in 2023—a 36.1% increase. Psychiatric medication doses totaled 9,150 in 2024, compared to 9,682 in 2023—a 5.5% decrease. These trends are attributed to post-pandemic population growth and evolving clinical needs. Wellpath continued to provide all Center for Disease Control-recommended childhood immunizations, as well as vision services, annual physicals, urgent care, emergency response, and specialized treatments.

In total, Wellpath's 2024 service delivery included 115 14-day health assessments, 134 six-month or annual physicals, 168 chronic care visits, 565 lab draws, 12 Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) initiations, 634 nurse sick calls, 4,488 nursing encounters, and 15,319 prescriptions. Additionally, Wellpath coordinated 205 offsite appointments for services such as dental exams, optometry, radiology (e.g., X-rays and MRIs), physical therapy, and cardiology—a 13% increase from 2023.

At the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC), only two youth were housed in 2024, due to the facility closure in March 2024. Both youth arrived already with prescribed psychotropic medications, which were administered throughout their brief stays.

BWell continued to deliver comprehensive clinical services at both the JJC and LPBC. Services in 2024 included post-custody outreach, engagement support, and linkage to community-based care. Treatment followed evidence-based practices, incorporating clinical assessments, treatment planning, individual and group psychotherapy, family counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring, case management, and cognitive behavioral approaches such as Moral Reconation Therapy and Interactive Journaling. Eye Movement Desensitization and

Reprocessing (EMDR), a trauma-focused, evidence-based intervention, was also utilized. BWell staff also provided JJC facility staff with professional training on trauma-informed care and issues related to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

According to BWell's 2023–2024 Annual Report (Attachment B), from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, clinical staff conducted 49 initial psychiatric evaluations and 268 psychiatric follow-up appointments. Safety checks totaled 380, while individual therapy sessions accounted for 1,368.01 hours across 1,476 sessions. Additionally, 16 family therapy sessions were held, along with 619 Child and Family Team (CFT), Multi-Disciplinary Team, and Treatment Team meetings.

The Department of Behavioral Wellness provides leadership in organized public and private partnership activities and education to advance strategies for suicide prevention. Suicide Prevention activities, provided through Behavioral Wellness county wide, include public and targeted information campaigns, training, school postvention support and response (the provision of psychological support, crisis intervention and other forms of assistance to those affected by a campus suicide or other traumatic event. Suicide postvention involves a series of planned interventions with those affected by a campus suicide with the intention to facilitate the grieving or adjustment process, stabilize the environment, reduce the risk of negative behaviors, limit the risk of further suicides through contagion), first responder and community support surrounding deaths by suicide, outreach and education.

JJMS staff provide safety checks in both correctional facilities per custodial regulations when warranted, which also includes thorough risk assessments and linkage to mobile crisis 5585 evaluations when appropriate to determine whether a youth is to be placed on an involuntary hold for potential psychiatric hospitalization. Suicide prevention is an integral part of Behavioral Wellness service provision. Suicidality and suicidal history is a primary component to the youth's intake and initial assessment process, as well as ongoing to ensure safety of the youth both in custody and in the community.

The Probation Department remains in full compliance with all Title 15 standards and continues to prioritize the health and well-being of youth in its care. In June 2024, the Juvenile Corrections Center received re-accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC), a distinction it first earned on October 20, 2020. This accreditation represents the highest national standard for health care in correctional settings and affirms the Department's ongoing commitment to quality care and accountability. The County Health Department provides oversight and monitors contract compliance regarding the services provided by Wellpath at the JJC.

### **Background:**

Pursuant to Title 15, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities Article 8, Subsection 1400 of the California Board of State and Community Corrections, the Probation Department is mandated to provide comprehensive health services to all youth detained or committed at the JJC.

Wellpath, the County's contracted medical provider, delivers healthcare services to youth detained at the JJC, while BWell is responsible for the provision of mental health services. Note that although the LPBC is referenced in the report, the facility ceased housing youth as of March 2024.

In compliance with Title 15 regulations, every youth receives a thorough medical examination by Wellpath within 96 hours of intake, and a mental health assessment by BWell within seven days of

booking. Youth may request ongoing medical or mental health care through call slips, and staff may also initiate requests on their behalf. Wellpath nursing staff review and triage these requests at least twice daily. Additionally, Wellpath administers MAT to eligible youth and ensures a seamless transition of MAT services by connecting youth to community-based providers prior to their release.

### **Performance Measure:**

The County Health Department conducts quarterly audits of Wellpath medical records to evaluate compliance with service-level agreements (SLAs), with results compiled in an annual report (Attachment C). Audits use a 10% randomized sample per measure, with a minimum of 30 patients per group to improve accuracy. If fewer than 30 qualify, the entire group is audited. Preliminary findings are shared for review, and any measure below 90% compliance triggers a required corrective action plan (CAP).

At the JJC, medical audits cover six healthcare areas, including initial assessments, medication continuity, vaccinations, and sexually-transmitted infections screenings. Wellpath scored 100% in Q1 and Q2 of 2024, dropping to 99% in Q3 and 96% in Q4 due to lapses in timely screenings and vaccinations. Wellpath's overall compliance at the JJC for 2024 was 98%.

Wellpath fell below the 90% compliance threshold for only one measure during the 2024 calendar year, and only in Q4. This measure, based on a contractual SLA, requires that Wellpath assess a patient's status for childhood immunizations and administer any vaccinations needed within 14 days of arrival to the JJC. This performance outlier can, in part, be explained by a higher-than-normal rate of parental refusal for vaccinations during that quarter.

### ***Quarterly SLA Audit Measure Performance***

JJC		2024				2024
#	Measure	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual
1	Was IHA complete within 96 hours of arrival?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2	Med verification complete < 12 hours of intake?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
3	If not verified, was provider contacted for orders < 24 hours?	n/a	n/a	100%	100%	100%
4	Immunization status assessed and updated < 14 days?	100%	100%	93%	80%	93%
5	STI screening completed?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
6	STI intervention performed if indicated?	100%	100%	100%	93%	98%
Overall		100%	100%	99%	96%	98%

Mental health services at the JJC are provided by BWell. To assess those services, the County Health Department and BWell are currently working in close collaboration to design and implement comprehensive audit tools intended to ensure accountability and transparency. These tools will serve to monitor and confirm compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) currently in place with the Probation Department. The purpose of these audit tools is not only to verify adherence to the terms of the agreement but also to strengthen interdepartmental coordination, promote consistency in service delivery, and provide clear documentation that supports oversight responsibilities. This collaborative effort reflects the County's commitment to maintaining high standards of care, ensuring program integrity, and upholding the shared goals of public safety, youth rehabilitation, and community well-being.

**Contract Renewals:**

The County issued the original contract with Wellpath with a service period of April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2022. The original contract was amended seven times including executing three optional one-year extensions. In September 2024, Probation and the Sheriff's Office issued a bid, and Wellpath was selected for a new contract with an initial service period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2027.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund	\$2,600,231.00	\$2,425,958.00	<b>\$5,026,189.00</b>
State	\$309,400.00	\$347,500.00	<b>\$656,900.00</b>
Federal			-
Fees			-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,909,631.00</b>	<b>\$2,773,458.00</b>	<b>\$5,683,089.00</b>

The Probation Department's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget included funding for medical services through the Wellpath agreement in the amount of \$1,473,431 and mental health services by BWell in the amount of \$1,436,200. The Probation Department's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted

Budget included funding for the Wellpath contract in the amount of 1,529,158 and for BWell services in the amount of 1,244,300. There is no fiscal impact receiving and filing the report.

The Probation Department's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget included funding for medical services through the Wellpath agreement in the amount of \$1,473,431 and mental health services by BWell in the amount of \$1,126,800. The Probation Department's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget included funding for the Wellpath contract in the amount of 1,529,158 and for BWell services in the amount of 1,244,300. There is no fiscal impact receiving and filing the report.

<b>Probation Budget for Medical Services (Wellpath Contract)</b>	
Healthcare Services	\$1,451,761.51
Pharmacy Costs	75,101.68
Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Fees	2,295.00
<b>Total Healthcare Services</b>	<b>\$1,529,158.19</b>

<b>Probation Budget for Mental Health Services (BWell)</b>	
JJC Services	\$795,600.00
Manager-Administrator	186,400.00
Other Charges (Liability, Rents, Maintenance and Other Office Expense)	144,500.00
Admin Indirect Cost	117,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,244,300.00</b>

During year 8 of the Agreement covering the period of April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, Wellpath credited the Probation Department \$62,737 for missed shifts. The following table shows credits for missed shifts by contract year over the entire contract period. Wellpath has made a concerted effort to address the staffing shortages at the JJC during the current fiscal year. To strengthen coverage, two additional employees are currently in the background process, and staff regularly assigned to the County jails have been rotated to the JJC to cover shifts. In addition, Wellpath is building a larger cohort of part-time staff which can be utilized when a staffing need occurs.

Contract Year	Period	Total Credits
1	April 2017 to March 2018	1,964
2	April 2018 to March 2019	5,352
3	April 2019 to March 2020	26,006
4	April 2020 to March 2021	10,536
5	April 2021 to March 2022	12,362
6	April 2022 to March 2023	26,096
7	April 2023 to March 2024	30,879
8	April 2024 to March 2025	62,737

#### **Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Wellpath 2024 Annual Report

**Attachment B** – BWell 2024 Annual Report

**Attachment C** – County Health Department JJC Healthcare 2024 Annual Report

#### **Contact Information:**

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