



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 2, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, 681-5220
Contact Info: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director, 681-5220

SUBJECT: Traditions Psychology Group dba Traditions Behavioral Health, FY 13-17
Amendment and FY 17-18 Contract Renewal

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a 1st Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Traditions Psychology Group, dba Traditions Behavioral Health** (not a local vendor) to modify the rates, but with no change to the contract maximum amount through June 30, 2017.
- B) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Traditions Psychology Group, dba Traditions Behavioral Health** (not a local vendor) to provide psychiatry services at Behavioral Wellness facilities for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,635,340 for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
- 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 not result in a potentially significant 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.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Summary Text:

Traditions Behavioral Health (TBH), a psychiatrist staffing service, provides a long-term solution to help address Behavioral Wellness' ongoing psychiatrist staffing shortages. Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to access up to 6.0 FTE of contracted psychiatric personnel to cover necessary services, due to existing staffing vacancies throughout the Department.

Background:

TBH provides an alternative to temporary psychiatry services provided by locum tenens staffing arrangements, by offering long term placement of highly-qualified psychiatrists. Despite historical continuous open recruitment for psychiatrists, Behavioral Wellness has experienced perpetual challenges attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists to work at Behavioral Wellness facilities. TBH's psychiatrists provide mandated psychiatric services such as diagnostic evaluations; medication evaluations; prescriptions for psychiatric medications; review, revision and approval of client assessments; and participation in the development, review, revision and approval of client treatment plans. TBH physicians follow a philosophy of recovery-focus, rather than illness-focus, and embrace the concepts of diversity and cultural competence. The agreement with TBH for psychiatrists includes the expectations set forth below, with a focus on positive client outcomes and maximum productivity. Each physician will be expected to:

- Work 9 or 16 hour days.
- See 10-12 clients per day in clinics, and 6-9 clients per day for services in the field.
- Fill clinic gaps resulting from no-shows and cancellations with walk-in clients.
- Chart in the electronic health record a minimum of four paragraphs per client encounter.
- Evaluate every client a minimum of once every three months, but more often as needed.
- Facilitate the transition of clients to appropriate levels of care within the Behavioral Wellness system.

TBH's costs are comparable to Behavioral Wellness' other locum tenens staffing contracts. However, TBH provides operational benefits not included in the other contracts. These include psychiatrists who will cover one to two weekends per month as well as extended hours on all weekdays and weekends covered, including holidays at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). This will allow direct physician contact admissions to the PHF until 11 PM every day covered by TBH. It also has the likely benefit of discharging patients on the weekends and shortening patient stays because care can begin immediately. TBH's physicians will cover all acute and crisis services in South County and in doing so will be covering the most difficult to recruit psychiatrist positions. With the addition of Behavioral Wellness' newest South County facility – the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), there is an even higher than traditional need for after extended hours and weekend coverage. Having the same physicians cover both the PHF and CSU as well as provide post hospital discharge visits will also improve the continuity of care. Furthermore, with the pending approval of Cottage Hospital, there is the possibility of ER visits.

TBH also promptly responds to Behavioral Wellness performance concerns about TBH psychiatrists, and facilitates communication between County and psychiatrists. During FY 16-17 Behavioral Wellness has continuously employed one FTE psychiatrist from TBH.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>		<u>FY 17-18</u>	
General Fund				
State	\$	919,927.50	\$	817,670.00
Federal	\$	919,927.50	\$	817,670.00
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$	1,839,855.00	\$	1,635,340.00

Narrative: TBH’s services have been used to backfill vacant positions that are approved and budgeted in the Behavioral Wellness FY 16-17 Salary Model. The budget for these services is in salary savings associated with the vacant positions resulting in no additional costs to the department. This will continue to be the case for FY 17-18.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing staffing services, there is a risk that subcontracted personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct be negligent in performance of assigned duties. To mitigate these risks, the contract with TBH allows Behavioral Wellness to request substitution of individual psychiatry staff for cause, and requires that the agency provide Professional Liability insurance. In addition, the contract contains a 90-day cancellation clause that either party can initiate.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the fully executed 1st Amendment and FY 17-18 Renewal Agreement to: qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Traditions Behavioral Health FY 13-17 Amendment 1
- Attachment B: Traditions Behavioral Health FY 17-18 Renewal Agreement
- Attachment C: Traditions Behavioral Health FY 13-17 Agreement

Authored by:

Q. Lopez