



Annual Report of Services

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Jail Facilities

2023





We are the right people, striving to do the right thing. We will continue to create healthier communities wherever we go, wherever we grow - one patient at a time.

Wellpath values the partnership with Santa Barbara County. The relationship began in 2017 with the mutual goal of providing effective and cost-efficient healthcare to our patients.

During 2023, we have:

- Designed and implemented three (3) Behavioral Health Units (BHU's)
- Mitigated the effects of COVID
- Expanded the Jail MAT Program
- Expanded services to incarcerated IST patients through EASS
- Collaborated with custody to implement the remedial plan of *Murray v. Santa Barbara County*.
- Achieved provisional NCCHC accreditation at the Main Jail

Services Provided

Comprehensive Medical Services

Assessments & Appraisals

Receiving screenings; health assessments

Access to Care

Triage & sick call; on-site clinics; telehealth; eConsults

Off-Site Coordination

Emergency & hospitalization arrangements; case management

Education

Patient health education programs; correctional staff training programs

National Contracts

Pharmacy; laboratory; radiology

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Medically supervised withdrawal management; MAT

Medically Necessary Diet Programs

Dental Care

Optical Care

Mental & Behavioral Health Services

Screening, Assessment, & Evaluation

Treatment Planning

Consultation & Education

Multidisciplinary Treatment Teams

Group & Individual Therapy

Clinical Supervision

Telepsychiatry

Suicide Prevention & Intervention

Jail-Based Competency Treatment

Re-Entry and Discharge Planning

Community Outreach

Continuity of care & discharge planning; collaboration with community agencies

Administrative & Operational Services

Claims Management

Third-party billing; cost recovery programs; catastrophic re-insurance coverage

Utilization Management

Web-based Care Management system

Accreditation

NCCHC

Clinical Quality Assurance

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) & Medical Administration Committee (MAC) programs

Reporting & Accountability

Automated reports; compliance tracking

On-Site Clinical Services (2023 Expanded)

- Patients – 758 (ADP)
- Receiving screenings – 9,916
- Emergency responses – 115
- Medical provider sick calls – 2,044
- Chronic Care visits – 1,549
- Nurse sick calls – 5,945
- Labs – 6,559
- X-Rays – 457
- Medications administered – 553,546
- COVID cases – 223
- Dental sick calls – 1,195
- TB assessments – 1,564
- Off-site clinical services – 294
- Psychiatric provider sick calls – 4,540
- Mental health sick calls – 11,271
- Patient deaths – 5

The SBJBCT team includes

- Psychologist
 - Psychiatrist
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - Competency trainer
 - Administrative Assistant
 - A dedicated Custody Deputy;
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- The program components -
 - Daily therapy
 - Competency groups
 - Weekly Individual Sessions
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- SBJBCT opened in November 2020 and has restored 121 patients since its inception.
 - The SBJBCT has been noted as one of the top programs in all of California to return defendants to trial without further transferring them to a state hospital.

Early Access Stabilization Services (EASS)

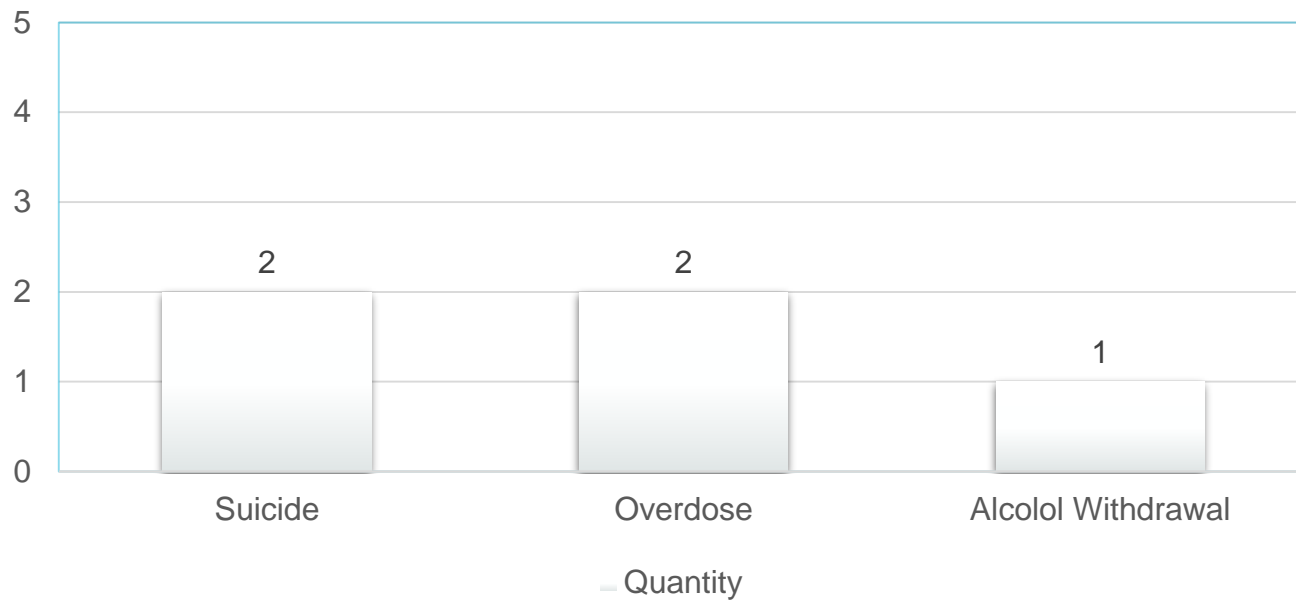
- EASS began admitting patients in September of 2022 and is offered at Santa Barbara Main Jail and the Northern Branch Jail. Our dedicate staff provide all services to this population, which is funded by DSH.
- Our Goals –
 - Start restoration services within three business days after learning about a patient’s competency status.
 - Stabilize IST patients and help them assist in their defense.
- Our Timeline -
 - The program takes an average of 30 to 90 days.
- Our Success
 - Through December 2023 in Santa Barbara County, we had enrolled 113 participants, with 18 restored to competency.

Adult In-custody deaths – 5

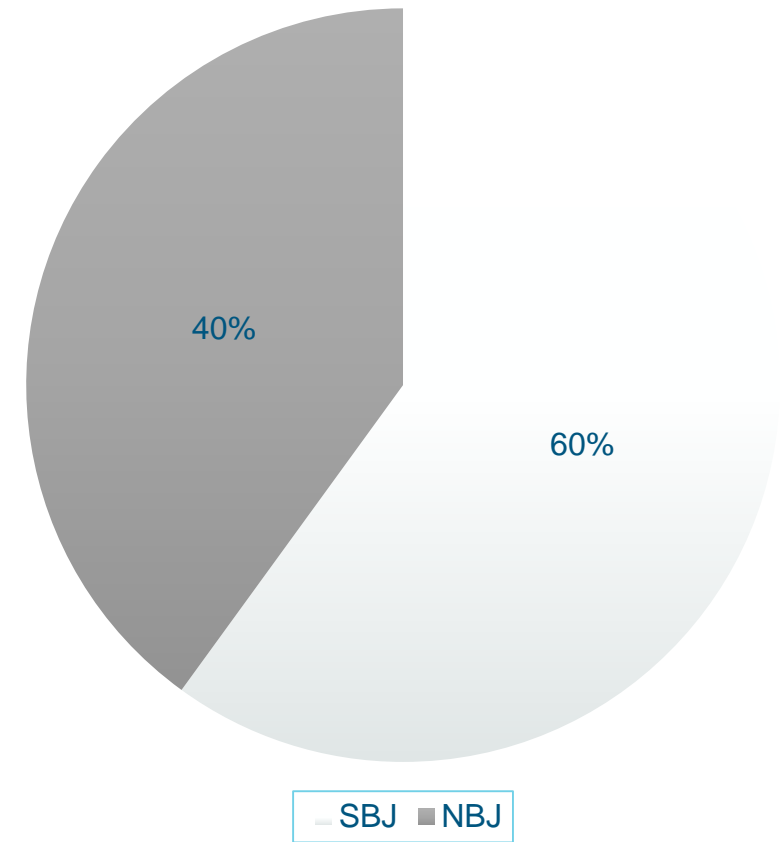
Coroner's findings showed the following three causes:

- Overdose - 2
- Suicide - 2
- Alcohol withdrawal - 1

Cause of Death



Facility



As a result of a nationwide (and countywide) increase in opioid related deaths, Wellpath and the Sheriff's Office implemented the following steps to respond to this crisis:

- Expanded the medication assisted treatment (MAT) program;
- Provided education regarding substance use/abuse, signs and symptoms of overdose and medication assisted treatment to incarcerated persons within the Jail Facilities;
- Provided Narcan (naloxone) to all Custody Deputies and Wellpath staff;
- Continuing to provide Narcan to inmates for self administration within upon release;

Medication Assisted Treatment Program

During 2023, our team:

- Expanded the number of patients from 33 to 68;
- Served 223 patients;
- Completed discharge plans for 203 individuals, with only 23 of them who returned to custody during the year;
- Held our first two MAT program graduations to recognize participants efforts;
- Received certification to facilitate Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) to program participants;
- Enhanced collaboration with discharge planning team;



- Wellpath received National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC) accreditation in 2020 for the Main Jail facility. NCCHC provides healthcare standards for correctional facilities which align with best practices and often exceed community standards.
- Wellpath received provisional NCCHC re-accreditation in December 2023 and is expecting to be fully accredited following a focused survey that was conducted in June 2024.
- Wellpath submitted an application for NCCHC accreditation for the Northern Branch Jail in July 2024 and is awaiting an NCCHC survey date.

- Further expansion of medication assisted treatment (MAT) program;
- Implementation of 2 additional Behavioral Health Units (BHU):
 - 16-bed male unit at Main Jail (Northwest C-Mod);
 - 16-bed male unit at Main Jail (Northwest D-Mod);
- Expanded collaboration with Public Health and BWell;
- CalAim preparations;
- Discharge planning improvements;
- Enhanced and expanded continuous quality improvement (CQI) program;



Thank you.



History of the Wellpath (CFMG) Contract

- Wellpath began providing services at Sheriff's Jail facilities in April 2017.
- Your Board held a jail healthcare workshop in April 2024.
- Your Board authorized an Amendment to the existing Agreement with Wellpath in June 2024.
- Beginning in 2023 and into 2024, the Sheriff's Office in partnership with Wellpath, BWell, Public Health and the CEO's Office increased oversight of this critical contract.



Sheriff's Office and County Monitoring

- Sheriff's Office in partnership with County partners enhanced service level agreements (SLA's) with Wellpath;
- Public Health and BWell enhanced quarterly monitoring tools to better address SLA's in late 2023;
- Enhanced monitoring began in 2024;
- Enhanced death-in-custody reviews to include thorough reviews by Public Health/BWell prior to the multi-disciplinary review;
- Sheriff's Office implemented monitoring and review of §17.2 of the Agreement related to payment reductions for staffing shortfalls with cost avoidance.



Results of 2023 Public Health Audits

Public Health Audits				
	Quarter	# of Areas Monitored	Overall Compliance	Areas Requiring Corrective Action Plans (CAP's)
2023	Q1	5	99%	0
	Q2	5	96%	0
	Q3	5	96%	0
	*Q4	23	69%	7
*Enhanced Monitoring Tool Created				



Efforts to Address Audit Findings (PH)

- Additional training provided to nursing staff regarding medication verification and appropriate referrals to providers;
- Additional training provided to nursing staff to initiate follow-up diagnostic evaluations for individuals with hypertension;
- Re-allocation of existing staff to perform health appraisals at NBJ;
- Implementation of additional positions allocated by your Board effective July 1, 2024.



Results of 2023 BWell Audits

Behavioral Wellness Audits				
	Quarter	# of Areas Monitored	Overall Compliance	Areas Requiring Corrective Action Plans (CAP's)
2023	Q1	36	66%	7
	Q2	36	66%	7
	Q3	36	64%	7
	*Q4	36	83%	5
*Enhanced Monitoring Tool Created				



Efforts to Address Audit Findings (BW)

- Updates to documentation processes;
- Re-assignment of M/H professionals to conduct restrictive housing rounds;
- Re-assignment of duties related to checking on individuals in safety cells and observation cells by LVN's;
- Additional training provided to M/H professionals relative to completing post suicide watch for individuals who have been cleared from intensive suicide watch monitoring;
- Implementation of additional positions allocated by your Board effective July 1, 2024.

Sheriff's Grievance Oversight Coordinator 2023 Report

SBSO Medical Inmate Grievance Summary 2020 through 2023				
Category	Year			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dental	7	12	54	27
Mental Health	21	23	39	38
Medication	67	66	108	119
Medical	160	109	358	275
HIPAA Not Signed	8	12	25	15
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)*				69
Total Medical/MH Related	263	222	584	543
Total Grievances (medical and non-medical)	1292	931	1692	1646
Average Daily Population (Main Jail & NBJ)	673	638	768	759
*Category added in 2023				



Efforts in-progress

- Your Board authorized 1.5 FTE positions to assist with oversight of the Agreement:
 - 1.0 FTE Correctional Health Quality Care Improvement Manager
 - 0.5 FTE Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor
 - Public Health in partnership with the Sheriff's Office are working to hire and onboard these positions.
- Implementation of revised Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) monthly meetings;
- Clinical review of all health/mental health policies/procedures;
- Enhancements to data-sharing between Wellpath/County systems;
- Healthcare Services Request for Proposals (RFP) is being completed by County partners;
- Implementation of Cal-Aim.



Recommended Actions:

- That the Board of Supervisors:
 - a) Receive and file the 2023 annual report prepared by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG/Wellpath) regarding the Agreement for Medical Services within Sheriff's Office jail facilities; and
 - a) Determine that the approval of 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 which does not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.