




**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: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: June 23, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director 
Department of Behavioral Wellness
Contact: Laura Zeitz, RN, Assistant Director for Inpatient, Justice, Crisis and Grants, Department of Behavioral Wellness
SUBJECT: Services Agreement with Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County dba Mental Wellness Center for Mental Health, Intensive Residential, and Adult Housing Support Services for Fiscal Year 2026-27

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 Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County dba Mental Wellness Center (Mental Wellness Center) (a local vendor) for the provision of certain mental health, intensive residential program and adult housing support services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$3,811,331, for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027;
- b) Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to (i) make immaterial changes to the Agreement as provided in Section 25 of the Agreement; (ii) authorize the Contractor to provide additional services per Section 4 of Exhibits A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7 and A-8 MHS of the Agreement ; (iii) make changes to the staffing requirements per Section 14 per Exhibits A-4 – A-8; (iv) amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Section 15 of Exhibit A-4 - A-8 of the Agreement and per subsection 5.B.4 of Section III of Exhibit AA ADP/MHS General Provisions of the Agreement; (v) suspend, delay, or interrupt

the services under the Agreement for convenience per subsection 1. F of Section I of Exhibit AA ADP/MHS of the Agreement; (vi) reallocate funds between funding sources per subsection D.1 of Section 1 of Exhibit B ADP/MHS of the Agreement ; (vii) incorporate new codes and make fee-for-service rate changes to Exhibits B-1 and B-3 per subsection B.2 of Section 3 of Exhibit B ADP/MHS General Financial Provisions of the Agreement; (viii) make rate changes to or otherwise update Exhibit B-1 and B-3 MHS for multi-year contracts annually per subsection B.3. of Section 3 of Exhibit B ADP/MHS General Financial Provisions of the Agreement; (ix) approve funding that cannot be moved between programs by Contractor and reserve the right to reallocate between programs in the year-end settlement per Section 6.A. of Exhibit B ADP/MHS General Financial Provisions of the Agreement; (x) withhold payment for non-submission of service data and other information per subsection 7.D. of Exhibit B ADP/MHS General Financial Provisions of the Agreement; (xi) deny or withhold payment for unsatisfactory clinical documentation per subsection 7.E. of Exhibit B ADP/MHS General Financial Provisions of the Agreement; may increase the rates up to 3.5% in fiscal year (FY) 2027-28 as provided in Exhibit B-1 MHS of the Agreement; (xii) may increase the maximum daily rate by up to 3.5% per year in FY 2027-28 and FY 2028-29 as provided in Exhibit B-1 MHS of the Agreement; and (xiii) adjust the daily rate to accommodate members with acute needs as provided in Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board of Supervisors' approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board of Supervisors' ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and

- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Board of Supervisors is requested to authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Mental Wellness Center to provide mental health services, including intensive residential program services and adult housing support services, to Santa Barbara County members with serious and persistent mental illness (SMI) for a maximum cost of \$3,811,331 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Approval will allow Mental Wellness Center to continue providing necessary mental health services for adults with severe mental illness who cannot live independently due to health or physical conditions and who are at high risk for acute inpatient or long-term residential care.

Discussion:

Mental Wellness Center operates three facilities – Alameda House, Casa Juana Maria, and Cottage Grove House – that provide intensive residential program services, and one facility – Polly's House – that provides adult housing support services to Medi-Cal eligible adults with SMI. All four facilities are licensed as Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs). These facilities are designed to support adults who need assistance with daily activities like meal preparation, personal care, medication management, and socialization, and provide a safe, home-like environment.

Mental Wellness Center also provides a combination of wellness and recovery-oriented services to members, and outreach, linkage to care and recovery-oriented activities to their families through the Wellness Center and Family Advocate program. The Wellness Center and Family Advocate program offers services to families of members with serious and persistent mental illnesses through

education, support, and linkage to resources, and promotes mental health recovery, social interaction, and independence.

In addition, Mental Wellness Center provides administrative oversight for the coordination of services designed to empower members to retain permanent residency through single room occupancy and linkage to services for members residing at the De La Vina House, a permanent housing facility utilizing the Housing First model for chronically homeless individuals who meet Continuum of Care (Shelter Plus Care) eligibility requirements.

Lastly, Mental Wellness Center provides Peer and Parent Partners in Wellness, a Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) prevention and early intervention program that employs a trained, diverse team of peers, family advocates, and clinical staff to engage and support the mental health needs of referred families by providing education and connection to natural supports and mental health resources in the community. The Peer and Parent Partners in Wellness program promotes mental health and wellness by working to reduce negative outcomes associated with untreated mental illness.

Renewal of the Board Contract will allow for necessary residential mental health treatment services to continue without a gap in services.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers including community-based organizations (CBOs). Mental Wellness Center is a CBO that provides residential and community mental health services to adult members and their families in the Santa Barbara area.

An intensive residential program provides structured therapeutic environments for individuals facing mental health or substance use challenges, offering comprehensive care and support.

Adult housing support services include a variety of programs designed to assist individuals in maintaining stable housing and addressing their housing-related needs. These services include: housing assistance, supported living services, in-home supportive services, and crisis housing programs.

BWell has contracted with Mental Wellness Center for adult mental health services since August 1999, serving County of Santa Barbara members for over two decades. The Board of Supervisors renewed the FY 2024-26 Services Agreement with Mental Wellness Center in June 2024.

Performance Measure:

The agreement with Mental Wellness Center identifies program goals, outcomes and measures in Section 15 of Exhibits A-4 through A-8 of the agreement. The program goals are to assist members in their mental health recovery process by:

- Supporting members to develop independent living skills and psychological and social skills necessary for recovery;
- Maintaining member's residential placement at the lowest appropriate level, and/or enable member to successfully move to a lower level of care;
- Providing 24/7 in-person support and care in a therapeutic environment for delivering health care service;
- Developing strategies for reducing substance use symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care and emergency rooms by increasing adaptive behaviors; and

- Improving or restoring the social and functional skills necessary to lead independent, healthy and productive lives in the community.

Performance Outcomes:

The following summary highlights performance outcomes for specialty mental health programs operated by the contracted Community-Based Organization, Mental Wellness Center, including residential and housing programs. Because of the small numbers served in the residential and housing programs, percentages are subject to more instability.

Residential and Housing Programs:

Alameda House

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Alameda House, served a quarterly average of 6 members and 1 discharge. There were no new enrollments. The program met 7 of 7 performance metrics (100%) during the reporting period. Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance in successful avoidance of crisis services such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalization and incarceration.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program met 5 out of 5 target goals. Of the members served, 100% successfully avoided inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and incarcerations.
- Stabilization in the Community: The program met 2 out of the 2 goals. There were 2 successful discharges and 0 involuntary discharges.

Casa Juana Maria

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Casa Juana Maria served a quarterly average of 6 members, 1 new enrollment and 1 discharge. The program met 4 of 7 performance metrics (57%) during the reporting period, though as mentioned above unmet goals should be interpreted cautiously due to the low number of members served.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program met 2 out of 5 target goals. The program functionally met the goals to avoid incarceration (6%; goal $\leq 5\%$) and crisis services (11%; goal $\leq 10\%$). The program did not meet the goal to avoid inpatient hospitalization (17%; goal $\leq 5\%$), though this percentage reflects one member per quarter. Of the members hospitalized, 100% of those with inpatient stays and incarcerations were followed up with after discharge within 7 days.
- Stabilization in the Community: The program met 2 out of the 2 goals. There was 1 successful discharge and 0 involuntary discharges.

Cottage Grove House

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Cottage Grove House served a quarterly average of 6 members. There were 0 new enrollments and 0 discharges during this period. The program met 7 of 7 performance metrics (100%) during the reporting period. Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance in successful avoidance of crisis services such as incarceration and crisis services.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program met 5 out of 5 target goals. Of the members served, 100% successfully avoided crisis services such as incarceration and crisis services.
- Stabilization in the Community: The program met 2 out of the 2 goals. There was 1 successful discharge and 0 involuntary discharges.

Polly's House

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Polly's House served a quarterly average of 11 members, 1 new enrollment and 1 discharge. The program met 5 of 7 performance metrics (71%) during the reporting period.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program met 3 out of 5 target goals. The program functionally met the goals to avoid incarceration (6%; goal \leq 5%) and inpatient hospitalization services (6%; goal \leq 5%). Of the members served, 100% with inpatient stays and incarcerations were followed up with after discharge within 7 days.
- Stabilization in the Community: The program met 2 out of the 2 goals. There was 1 successful discharge and 0 involuntary discharges.

De La Vina House

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, De La Vina house served an average of 5 members per quarter. There were 0 new enrollments and 0 discharges during this period.

Wellness Center, Family Advocate & Peer and Parent Partners in Wellness:

Wellness Center

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Wellness Center served a quarterly average of 310 members and 22 new enrollments. The program is on track to meet 5 of 6 performance metrics (83%) and the year hasn't ended, so metrics related to volume are adjusted for three quarters of the total annual goal. Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance in outreach and linkage to services.

- Number of Member Visits: The program had a total of 13,898 member visits, which far exceeds their adjusted target of 5,400 (annual target: 7,200).
- Number of Outreach Events: The program had a total of 36 outreach events, which exceeds their adjusted target of 18 outreach events (annual target: 24 events).
- Number of Outreach Event Attendees: The program had a total of 827 outreach attendees, which is slightly below their adjusted target of 900 (annual target: 1,200 attendees).
- Number of Support Group Meetings: The program had a total of 56 support group meetings, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 18 support group meetings (annual target: 24 meetings).
- Number of Outings and Events: The program had a total of 146 outings and events, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 9 outings/events (annual target: 12 outings/events).
- Number of Members Linked to Services: The program had a total of 102 members linked to services, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 30 members linked per year (annual target: 40 members linked).

Family Advocate

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Family Advocate served a quarterly average of 256 members and 155 new enrollments. The program met 4 of 4 performance metrics (100%) during the reporting period, and because the year has not ended, metrics related to volume are adjusted for three quarters of the total annual goal. Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance in linkage to services.

- Member Visits: The Family Advocate had a total of 1,196 member visits, which exceeded their adjusted target of 750 member visits (annual target: 1,000 member visits).

- Trainings: The Family Advocate had a total of 53 trainings, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 18 trainings (annual target: 24 trainings).
- Services Provided in Spanish: The Family Advocate had a total of 65 members who were provided with services in Spanish, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 19 per year (annual target: 25 per year).
- Members Linked to Services: The Family Advocate had a total of 569 members who were linked to services, which far exceeded their adjusted target of 15 (annual target: 20 members linked to services).

Peer and Parent Partners in Wellness

FY 2025-26. During the reporting period, Peer and Parent Partners in Wellness served an average of 20 members per quarter. The program met 6 of 6 performance metrics (100%) during the reporting period. Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance in conducting workshops and prevention activities.

- Unique Members: The program served an average of 20 members per quarter, which exceeded their target of 3 per quarter.
- Community Presentations/Trainings: The program has held an average of 23 trainings per quarter, which far exceeded their target of 8 per quarter.
- Educational and Informational Publications: The program had a total of 39 publications disseminated per quarter, which far exceeded their target of 6 per quarter.
- Accompanied Community Events: The program has accompanied an average of 90 individuals to community events per quarter, which far exceeded their target of 12 per quarter.
- Workshops/Prevention Activities: The program had an average of 117 workshops/prevention activities per quarter, which far exceeded their target of 12 per quarter.
- Number of Engagements/Support Groups: The program had an average of 47 engagement/support groups per quarter, which exceeded their target of 36 per quarter.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The above-referenced contract is funded by a combination of State and federal sources. There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding for this contract has been included in the Recommended Budget for FY 2026-27. With the transition to California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Payment Reform, the fee-for-service portion of the contract will be funded with Medi-Cal Patient Revenue which primarily consists of federal funds. The amount of federal funds is contingent on the member’s aid code and the State issued rate for the service. The Non-Medi-Cal portion of the contract is funded by BHSA with a small portion funded by the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) grant.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026-27	Total
State BHSA	\$1,098,671	\$1,098,671
Other: BHBH Grant	\$22,000	\$22,000
Other: Medi-Cal Patient Revenue	\$2,690,660	\$2,690,660
Total	\$3,811,331	\$3,811,331

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Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above contract and one (1) Minute Order to Sara Hernandez at sahernandez@sbcbswell.org and to bswellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County dba Mental Wellness Center FY 2026-27 Board Contract (Signature Required)

Contact Information:

Sara Hernandez
Contracts Analyst
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Svetlana Arriaga
Contracts Analyst
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