



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 9, 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 PHF, Crisis Services &
Long-Term Care, Department of Behavioral Wellness
SUBJECT: First Amendment to the Services Agreement with Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc. for
Skilled Nursing Facility Services for Fiscal Year 2023-26

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, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (BC 23-148) with Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc. (VPE) (not a local vendor) to increase the contract amount by \$165,000 for a revised, total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$4,965,000, inclusive of \$1,550,000 for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, \$1,600,000 for FY 2024-25, and \$1,815,000 for FY 2025-26, resulting in no change to the contract term of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026; and
- b) Determine that the above-recommended action is 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 action is a governmental funding mechanism and/or fiscal activity 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 the First Amendment to the Agreement with Vista Pacifica Enterprises (VPE) to increase the allocated maximum amount for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 by \$165,000, from \$1,650,000 to \$1,815,000, due to a higher number of admissions than anticipated. While 16 members were admitted in FY 2024-25, there are currently 21 members placed at VPE. This amendment will increase the total maximum contract amount from \$4,800,000 to \$4,965,000 to ensure coverage for the current members through the contract expiration date of June 30, 2026.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to ensure VPE can continue to provide skilled nursing facility (SNF) services to members with significant health conditions without a gap in services, including skilled nursing, rehabilitation services, and specialized neurobehavioral services.

Discussion:

VPE operates Vista Pacifica Center, which is an institution for mental disease (IMD) and a 108-bed, locked skilled nursing facility with a special treatment center to provide psychiatric care, including treatment for severe and persistent mental illness. VPE also operates Vista Pacifica Convalescent, a 49-bed skilled nursing facility with a focus on behavioral health and geriatric psychiatry. Geriatric psychiatry, also known as geropsychiatry, focuses on the mental health care of older adults, addressing conditions like depression, anxiety, and neurocognitive disorders. Both facilities are located within Riverside, California.

Vista Pacifica Center offers four levels of service for residents who require high levels of supervision due to behavioral and medical needs, including: being absent without leave; exhibiting verbally aggressive, threatening, or abusive towards staff and peers; suicidal behavior; property destruction and severe psychosis requiring frequent redirection, counseling, and behavior modification from staff.

Vista Pacifica Convalescent offers three levels of care: Level A focuses on residents with chronic mental health diagnoses and active delusions, hallucinations, and/or mood swings. Level B focuses on residents with dual diagnoses of dementia and chronic mental illness with active psychosis. Level C focuses on residents with chronic mental health illness who are not stable on medications.

BWell anticipated 16 member admissions for FY 2025–26, consistent with the number admitted in FY 2024–25. However, 21 members were ultimately admitted in FY 2025–26, exceeding projections by five members. As a result, due to increased member admissions, the contract amount will increase by \$165,000 to support current members placed at VPE through the expiration of the agreement. Without approval of this amendment, a significant number of members would need to be discharged. This amendment does not alter the term of the agreement.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of specialty mental health services (SMHS) to Santa Barbara County residents, partly through contracted providers, including Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs). IMDs are facilities including hospitals, SNFs, or other institutions with more than 16 beds that primarily engage in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental illness, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services. Contracts with facilities providing services at various levels of care are key to ensuring that members' needs are optimally met.

Due to the Federal IMD Exclusion, these services are not reimbursable by Medi-Cal for members between the ages of 21 and 65. There are a limited number of these highly structured residential treatment services in California. BWell contracts with IMDs that are licensed as Acute Psychiatric

Hospitals (APH), SNFs with Special Treatment Patches (STPs), and Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRC). Due to limited bed availability at each IMD, BWell contracts with a number of IMDs throughout the State.

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), as defined in Title 22 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) § 72103, are health facilities or a distinct part of a hospital which provides continuous skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. SNFs provide 24-hour inpatient care and, at a minimum, include physician, skilled nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services, and an activity program. SNFs provide a Special Treatment Program (STP) serving members who have chronic psychiatric impairment and whose adaptive functioning is moderately impaired. STP services include those therapeutic services, including prevocational preparation and prerelease planning, provided to mentally disordered persons having special needs in one or more of the following general areas: self-help skills, behavioral intervention training, and interpersonal relationships. These skill-building and symptom-management services are designed to support members in returning to community living as soon as possible.

BWell has contracted with VPE for IMD SNF services since March 2016. The Board of Supervisors renewed the FY 2023-26 Services Agreement with VPE (BC 23-148) in October 2023. BWell is also separately seeking Board of Supervisors' approval for the renewal of the FY 2026-29 Services Agreement with VPE.

Performance Measure:

The Agreement with VPE identifies program goals, outcomes and measures in Exhibit E of the Agreement. The program goals are to assist members in their mental health recovery process by:

- Supporting members to develop independent living, psychological, and social skills necessary for recovery;
- Maintaining member's at the lowest appropriate level of residential placement, and/or enabling member to move successfully 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 independently healthy and productive lives in the community.

Contract Renewals:

Performance Outcomes

The following summary highlights performance outcomes for programs operated by VPE.

In FY 2025-26, program performance was evaluated across two domains: Mental Health Symptom Acuity and Stabilization in the Community, which together assesses member stability and community-based outcomes. Overall, programs performed well across both domains in terms of meeting goals.

Vista Pacifica Enterprises (VPE) – FY 2025-26 Q1, Q2 & Q3.

VPE served an average of 20.3 members per quarter, with an average of 3.7 new enrollments and an average of 2 discharges per quarter.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: All goals met. No members were incarcerated during the reporting period (0%), and a small number of members had psychiatric inpatient admissions (4%).
- Stabilization in the Community: All goals met. All members had successful discharges (100%).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The above-referenced contract is funded by State 1991 Realignment funds. There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding for this amendment has been included in the Recommended Budget for FY 2026-27. Due to the federal IMD exclusion, these services are not reimbursable by Medi-Cal for members between the ages of 21 and 65 years, which means the County has to rely solely on Realignment or other forms of local funds to pay for these services.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Total
State Realignment	\$1,550,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,815,000	\$4,965,000
Total	\$1,550,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,815,000	\$4,965,000

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above Amendment and one (1) Minute Order to sarriaga@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Vista Pacifica Enterprises FY 2023-26 Board Contract First Amendment (signature required)

Attachment B – Vista Pacifica Enterprises FY 2023-26 Board Contract

Contact Information:

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