



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: 1/9/24
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: John Doyel, MA, LAADC, CCS, Assistant Director
Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: The Santa Barbara San Luis Obispo Regional Health Authority, dba CenCal Health, CalAIM Incentive Payment Program Funding Agreement FY 23–27

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: **Risk**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: **CEO Budget**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to execute the CalAIM Incentive Payment Program Funding Agreement, substantially similar in form and substance to Attachment A, to receive a grant award in the amount of **\$804,078** for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026, (Attachment A) from the Santa Barbara San Luis Obispo Regional Health Authority, dba **CenCal Health**, a local public entity, serving as the California Department of Health Care Services administrator for Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports capacity to establish a new Care Coordinating Team;
- b) Adopt an amendment to Salary Resolution No. 07-207 (Attachment C), effective December 12, 2023, to add three (3.0 FTE) Case Workers, and two (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialist positions to BWell;
- c) Approve a Budget Revision Request (BJE Number 0009464) (Attachment B) to establish appropriations of \$201,020 in Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Fund for Salaries & Benefits (\$170,867) and Service & Supplies (\$30,153) funded by the CenCal Incentive Payment Program Grant Award; and

- d) Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request authorization to accept a grant from CenCal Health. CenCal Health, administering on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is awarding CalAim IPP funds to support the implementation and expansion for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Support (CS) capacity to Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to address clinical and nonclinical needs through intensive coordination of health and health-related services. These grant funds will be used to establish a Care Coordinating Team to provide services for clinically marginalized and underserved individuals in our current system in the Main and Northern Branch Jails, and Juvenile Justice Center for FY 23-27 for a total grant amount not to exceed \$804,078. BWell is also requesting that the Board adopt an amendment to the Salary Resolution to add three (3.0 FTE) Case Workers and two (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialist positions to the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell).

Background: CenCal Health has served the County of Santa Barbara since 1983, is the exclusive Medi-Cal health plan in the county service area, and is currently serving one in four County residents. The CalAIM Incentive Payment Program (IPP) has been made available by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Support (CS) capacity through CenCal Health to address clinical and nonclinical needs through intensive coordination of health and health-related services.

Care Coordination Team. With this grant award, Behavioral Wellness (BWell) will establish a Care Coordinating Team to provide in-reach services including but not limited to assistance with Behavioral Health screenings and or assessments, discharge planning and care coordination with post release follow up and Enhanced Care Management services, for current CenCal recipients in the Main and Northern Branch Jails, and Juvenile Justice Center. BWell will hire and train a total of five (5) new full-time (FTE) staff comprised of two (2) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS) and three (3) ECM Case Workers to form a Care Coordinating Team covering both Jails and the Juvenile Justice Center. The Care Coordinating Team will provide ECM to those clients identified with complex needs who have and would otherwise be lacking the care they need to succeed in recovery. Staff will be stationed in the custody settings and/or at BWell office in close proximity to those locations, with a majority of services being delivered in the field with mobile flexibility.

The focus will be underserved clients with complex needs, many of whom will be “familiar faces”, formerly known as “high utilizers” of intensive public and private services including, but not limited to, the jails, hospital emergency department, and the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). Staff will receive referrals and provide outreach to eligible clients to prevent them from entering higher levels of services. Staff will be expected to advocate for and physically be with clients as they transition from custody settings into community-based services. Staff will follow a whole person care and “whatever it takes” model. The staff will bridge gaps between physical and behavioral health with specific areas of focus on underserved minorities, including Latinx and indigenous individuals in need of access to a combination of mental health and substance use services. Each staff member will carry a caseload of twenty (20) to thirty-five (35) clients with an estimate of 100-165 clients receiving services at any given time.

Network Provider. To further the objectives of ECM and CM, BWell agrees to be contracted with CenCal Health as an ECM and/or CS provider within twelve (12) months of BWell’s receipt of IPP Funds.

Data Sharing. Data will be essential to understand the extent of how objectives have been supported, advanced, expanded, or attained. Under the terms of the grant, BWell agrees to execute a data sharing agreement with CenCal Health to allow the sharing of such information relevant to ECM, CS, and/or other such additional programs, if and as required by DHCS.

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

The Agreement contains performance measures to monitor implementation and improve staff proficiency. Success will be measured by a reduction in rates of Emergency Department visits, primary care visits, behavioral health services, crisis services, inpatient admissions, and jail bookings. (See Program Funding Agreement, Attachment A, Exhibit A – Santa Barbara County IPP Evaluation Appendix).

BWell will provide interim progress reports to CenCal approximately every six (6) months detailing the use of IPP funds and evaluating the outcomes.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Costs</u>	<u>FY 24-25 Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 201,020	\$ 603,058	\$ 804,078
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 201,020	\$ 603,058	\$ 804,078

Narrative: The funding source is a State grant and will be disbursed on cost reimbursement basis. BWell plans to primarily use the funds for staffing and 15% in indirect costs. BWell will be able to draw down more funds next FY once we have fully hired staff.

Funding for the Care Coordinating Team was included in the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. The proposed BJE-0009464 will establish appropriations of \$201,020 in Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Fund for Salaries & Benefits (\$170,867) and Service & Supplies (\$30,153) to be funded with the grant from Cen Cal this fiscal year. Program appropriations for FY 2024-25 will be included in BWell’s requested budget, subject to Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

The County’s Contractor Risk Assessment tool calculates that the proposed agreement with CenCal presents a high risk. Some of the higher risk categories include the contract size (over \$500,000), contingency of funds from DHCS, and the implementation of a new program.

The Agreement imposes procedural and reporting requirements that BWell will need to implement, which may be subject to future audit. Failure to fully comply with the reporting requirements detailed in the Agreement could result in the contract termination or refund to CenCal. The Agreement provides that payments under this Agreement are subject to reduction or termination without penalty to CenCal Health, in whole or in part, subject to the availability of funding by DHCS.

Staffing Impacts:

2.0 FTE Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists

3.0 FTE Case Workers

It is the current intention that the funding of these newly added positions after the grant ends, will come from Medi-Cal billing and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The department has a high vacancy rate and staff may also be able to move to current vacant funded positions.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed Board Contract and one (1) minute order to msimongersuk@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: CenCal Health Incentive Payment Program Funding Agreement

Attachment B: Budget Revision Request Number 0009464

Attachment C: Salary Resolution

Attachment D: Award Letter

Authored by:

M. Simon-Gersuk