



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: June 6, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Carla Cross, MA. LFT, ART-BC, Manager of Clinical Training
and Special Projects, Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805)
681-5220

SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – First Amendment to the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Memorandum of Understanding for Administration and Management Services Workforce Training and Education (WET) Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRP) Loan Repayment Program for FY 21-25

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the **First Amendment** to the **California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. 1034-WET-2020-SRA A01** for administration, program management, and fiscal services for the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRP) Loan Repayment Program to revise the criteria language to allow the Counties more flexibility to determine the criteria, amounts of the awards, and the payment process timeline and increase the budget in the amount of \$3,076 for a maximum agreement amount not to exceed **\$6,856,875**, inclusive of an administrative fee of 15% (\$894,375), upon execution through June 30, 2025 (Attachment A); and
- B. Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the 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 the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to the CalMHSA Memorandum of Understanding No. 1034-WET-2020-SRA A01 SCRP Loan Repayment, to revise the criteria language, and increase to the budget in the amount of \$3,076, for the provision of the administration, program management and fiscal services in accordance with OSHPD Agreement No. 20-10018 for a maximum agreement amount not to exceed \$6,856,875 inclusive an administrative fee of 15%, (\$894,375) upon execution through June 30, 2025.

CalMHSA will provide administrative, management, and fiscal services for the provision of SCRP Loan Repayment Program, a Workforce Education and Training (WET) activity, to award eligible SCRP County mental health staff with loan repayment awards and make the payments to the lending institutions. The services they will provide include verification of loan, developing eligibility, criteria of eligibility with each County, and tracking and reporting the services.

Background:

SCRP, was established under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), passed in 2004. The MHSA included a requirement for each county mental health department to develop a local WET Plan, and to participate in Regional Partnerships formed throughout the State to promote building and improving the local PMHS workforce, education, and training resources, and focuses on projects and goals specific to the needs of the region. The SCRP consists of the public mental health departments of Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Imperial, Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, as well as the Los Angeles County Tri-City region (Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona). Behavioral Wellness (BWell) has been a voting member of the SCRP since its inception in 2009.

In December 2014, the Board approved and authorized BWell to serve as the fiscal and administrative agent for the SCRP and to execute the initial MOU with the SCRP counties to implement WET. Then in May 2020, BWell was nominated by the SCRP to continue as the fiscal and administrative agent for the SCRP to be the fiscal and administrative agent for the OSHPD grant through 2026, which the Board approved on January 12, 2021, the OSHPD grant Agreement No. 20-10018.

The goals and objectives set forth in the WET Five-Year Plan approved by OSHPD in 2019 provide a framework for strategies that state and local government, community partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders can enact to remedy the shortage of qualified individuals to provide services to those who are at risk of or have a severe mental illness. The goals of the Five year plan is to: increase the number of diverse, competent licensed and non-licensed professionals in the PMHS to address the needs of persons with SMI; expand the capacity of California's current public mental health workforce to meet California's diverse and dynamic needs, facilitate a robust statewide, regional, and local infrastructure to develop the public mental health workforce; offer greater access to care at a lower level of intensity that enables consumers to maintain and maximize their overall well-being, and support delivery of PMHS services for consumers within an integrated health system that encompasses physical health and substance use service.

On December 14, 2021 the Board approved BWell as the SCRP agent and OSHPD grantee for SCRP to enter into a MOU with CalMHSA to implement and administer all components of the WET SCRP Loan Repayment Program to work toward meeting the goal of facilitating a robust statewide, regional, and local infrastructure to develop the public mental health workforce. The OSHPD Grant Agreement requires implementation and administration of a Loan Repayment Program to provide educational loan repayment assistance to PMHS professionals that the SCRP identifies as high priority in the region, considering applicants who previously received scholarships and/or stipends. SCRP individual counties have the

ability to define the criteria to meet the needs of the county and take into consideration a variety of factors when determining award amounts: applicants who previously received scholarships and/or stipends, educational attainment, the level of unmet need in the community served, and years of service in the PMHS.

On January 26 and 27, 2023 the WET coordinators met to discuss changes the Loan Repayment criteria for OSHPD. They all agreed to modify the CalMHSA Loan Agreement to allow funds to be disbursed more quickly and better meet the needs of each county. The change would allow each county to establish their own criteria and qualification to include no work obligations. Applicants would be able to withdraw their participation at any time prior to disbursement if a competing loan program pays more.

Additionally, on February 15, 2023 the SCRП Executive Board reviewed and approved the changes to the CalMHSA Agreement for the Loan Repayment MOU which would allow for greater flexibility for the Counties to determine the criteria, amounts of the awards, and the payment process timeline within one year or over a series of years, rather than fixed amounts and specific number of awards.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to execute its functions as the Administrative and Fiscal entity for SCRП and allow greater flexibility in accordance with OSHPD Agreement to enhance mental healthcare workforce development strategies in alignment with the 2020-2025 WET Five-Year Plan that addresses regional needs by strengthening recruitment, training, education, and retention of PMHS.

Performance Measure:

CalMHSA’s administration of this program will result in increased efficiency of the implementation of the program. CalMHSA will maintain all records and provide regular fiscal reports to BWell.

Performance Outcomes:

CalMHSA has selected 229 applicants during Round 1 who will be awarded the loan repayment after completion of their work obligation which is in process. Round 2 is still in process of being finalized with program agreements and work verification documents being signed. CalMHSA is on track with the current expectations regarding disbursements of loan repayments.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 21-25 Cost:</u>
General Fund	
State - OSHPD Grant	\$ 6,856,875.0
Federal	
Fees	
Other:	
Total	\$ 6,856,875.00

Narrative: The Loan Repayment Program funding is provided for in the OSPHD Grant Agreement No. 20-10018 through 2026. OSHPD approved a reallocation of funds amongst the approved WET activities set forth in the OSPHD Grant Agreement No. 20-10018. OSHPD originally approved an allocation of \$5,959,825 for the Loan Repayment Program and then approved an allocation of \$5,962,500 for the program and allowed an additional 15% allocation for administrative services. This First Amendment

increases the budget by \$3,076 to fully utilize the full allocation awarded. To date, BWell has received the full disbursement funds for the Loan Repayment Program.

Key Contract Risks:

Funding for this MOU comes from OSHPD grant funds, include a local match fund contribution for each SCRCP County. Each County can determine if the pay upfront or make a match contribution annually. OSHPD may reduce the award of Agreement funds if 80% of the match funds are not encumbered and/or spent by July 1, 2024. However, the MOU has language that allows the County to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the MOU for convenience, non-appropriation of funds, or for cause. The MOU requires that County indemnify CalMHSA for claims arising from County's acts or omissions. The parties otherwise agree to use principles of comparative fault when apportioning any and all losses that may arise out of the performance of the MOU. The County's MOU with the SCRCP members requires the SCRCP members to indemnify the County for any liability caused by the SCRCP's negligent or intentional acts or omissions.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the above Memorandum of Understanding to Contract Staff at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: CalMHSA FY 21-25 SCRCP Loan Repayment Agreement No. 1034-WET-2020-SRA-A1

Attachment B: SCRCP Minutes and Approval 2.15.23

Attachment C: WET Coordinator Planning Session 1.26.23

Attachment D: CalMHSA FY 21-25 SCRCP Loan Repayment Agreement No. 1034-WET-2020-SRA

Attachment E: OSHPD WET SCRCP FY 20-26 Agreement No. 20-10018

Authored by:

D. Morales