



**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 Info: Katie Cohen, Psy.D., LMFT, Assistant Director of Clinical Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Services Agreement with Transitions - Mental Health Association for Mental Health Services for Fiscal Year 2026–27

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**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 Transitions – Mental Health Association (not a local vendor) for the provision of mental health services to both adults (aged 18+) and youth (aged 12-17) for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$3,106,595;
- b) Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to
  - (i) make immaterial changes to the Agreement as provided in Section 25 of the Agreement;
  - (ii) authorize additional services per Exhibit A-1 Section 4; (iii) approve changes to location per Exhibit A-4 (iv) amend the Program, goals, outcomes, and measures, as provided in Section 15 of each Exhibit A-1, A-2, and A-4 through A-7; (v) agree to changes to the hours of operation as per Exhibit A-5 and A-6; (vi) adjust program capacity as per Exhibit A-5 and A-6; (vii) make changes to the staffing requirements per Exhibits A-4 through A-7; (viii) suspend for convenience per Exhibit AA; (ix) reallocate funds between funding sources as provided in Exhibit B; (x) incorporate new codes, reallocate funding, and make fee-for-service rate changes to Exhibit B-1 and B-3; all without altering the total 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:**

This item is on the agenda to request that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement for services with Transitions – Mental Health Association (TMHA) for the provision of mental health services to adults, aged 18 and up, and youth, aged 12-17. Services include short term residential therapeutic program for youth and non-minor dependents; early intervention services at two walk-in facilities, one in Santa Maria, one in Lompoc; early intervention services at a farm in Santa Maria; and a six-month extension for two full service partnership programs, one in Santa Maria, and one in Lompoc. The term of the agreement is for fiscal year 2026-27, and the maximum contract amount is \$3,106,595.

**Discussion:**

This item is before the Board as a renewal of the agreement with Transitions – Mental Health Association (TMHA). There are two timelines in this agreement. Some programs end at the end of calendar year 2026, and some end at the end of fiscal year 2026-27.

The agreement before the Board includes the following programs, which have a term of July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

1. Full Service Partnerships (FSP). TMHA currently provideHs two FSP programs, one in north county (District 5) and the other in Lompoc (District 3). TMHA's FSP programs funded under MHSA are transitioning or ending. The Behavioral Health Services Act, effective July 1, 2026, provides funding and expectations for evidence-based programs to serve the population previously served by MHSA FSP programs. The BHSA required evidence based FSP programs are ACT, Forensic ACT, Individualized Placement Support , and High Fidelity Wraparound. During the transition period from MHSA to BHSA, the current FSP services will be funded as allowed by BHSA rules.

A request for proposals (RFP) for ACT and Forensic ACT was published on March 23, 2026. Contracts for the awarded RFPs are expected to be finalized in the second half of 2026. In order to maintain continuity of care for the patients, the current FSP programs with TMHA are being extended to December 31, 2026.

The following programs with TMHA will have a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Some programs are new for the County, others are renewals.

1. Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). New program. TMHA's San Luis Obispo facility called the Youth Treatment Program (YTP), is able to serve up to six youth who are Santa Barbara residents, aged 12-17, with serious emotional disturbance. TMHA will deliver state-mandated STRTP services as well as intensive home-based services, intensive care coordination, and linkage and coordination with therapeutic behavioral services.

2. Wellness Centers and Family Advocate. Renewing Program. Santa Maria Wellness Center (District 4) and Helping Hands of Lompoc Wellness Center (District 3) provide a combination of wellness and recovery-oriented services to adults 18+ requiring specialty mental health services. In addition, outreach, linkages to care, and early treatment services and supports are provided. Peer run programs help clients and family members build bridges to local communities, and engage natural community supports.
3. Growing Grounds. Renewing Program. Growing Grounds is TMHA's Santa Maria facility (District 4) which provides psycho-social and horticultural rehabilitation support, as well as direct work experience for adult clients in a farm business setting. Clients are encouraged to engage with community and behavioral health resources.

**Background:**

The Behavioral Wellness Department (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and other individuals to the extent resources allow, in part, through contracted services. TMHA delivers an array of specialty mental health services such as STRTP, FSP, Early Intervention, and other services, to adults and transition age youth with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance in the Lompoc and Santa Maria areas. BWell has been contracting with TMHA continuously since at least 1999.

An STRTP is a residential facility that provides an integrated program of specialized intensive care and supervision, services, and support; specialty mental health services; mental health treatment; and short-term, 24-hour care and supervision to children and youth. In Santa Barbara County, BWell, Child Welfare Services, and Probation partner as interdisciplinary agencies for determining the need for, and recommending the placement of, children and youth into an STRTP.

TMHA's licensed STRTP program, YTP, will provide the STRTP services mentioned above, as well as Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) Coordination and Linkage. IHBS are individualized, strength-based interventions designed to ameliorate mental health conditions that interfere with a child's functioning and are aimed at helping the child and family build skills necessary for successful functioning in the home and community. ICC is a targeted case management service that facilitates assessment of care planning for and coordination of services to members under age 21 who are eligible for the full scope of Medi-Cal services and who meet medical criteria to access specialty mental health services. YTP will coordinate and link qualified members to County contracted TBS providers.

TMHA opened the Wellness Center - Santa Maria program in 1993 as the Santa Maria Recovery Learning Community, later changing the name to Wellness Center – Santa Maria. Later TMHA opened the Lompoc Helping Hands facility in 2004 providing the same services. The program provides linkages to care; mental health early treatment services and supports, including peer support services; and recovery oriented activities to the families of members.

TMHA established the Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria in 2000 Growing Grounds provides early intervention services such as psychosocial rehabilitation support, therapeutic horticulture, and direct experience in a working farm setting for transitional age youth (ages 18-25) and adults members (age 26+).

Due to the ending of the MHSA and the beginning of the BHSA, the following programs are continuing into the new FY 2026-27 agreement: Wellness Center, Lompoc FSP, North County FSP, and Growing Grounds. In addition, TMHA's STRTP program, YTP, will be added as a new program in this agreement. The programs not continuing are Lived Experience Advocacy Development (LEAD) and Vocational Rehabilitation. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services transitioned under purview of BWell

upon award of the Substance Abuse and Mental health Services Administration (SAMSA) grant in 2024.

### Performance Measures:

- The STRTP program is a new part of the agreement with TMHA. It has performance measures to monitor program effectiveness for youth across symptom acuity and stabilization in the community.
- Wellness Centers, Family Advocates, and Growing Grounds were evaluated based on individualized goals related to their activities. Collectively, these programs are exceeding their annual targets in almost all areas.
- TMHA's FSP programs' performance was evaluated across two domains: Mental Health Symptom Acuity and Stabilization in the Community. Overall, programs performed well across the different domains, with good outcomes related to client mental health acuity, consistent follow-up following higher acuity events, community stabilization, and linkage and referrals. One notable area of challenge has been meeting compliance expectations with regards to assessment completion.

### Contract Renewals:

- **STRTP:** The STRTP program and accompanying intensive home-based services and care coordination are new additions to this agreement, therefore there is no data yet to inform renewal.
- **FSP North County:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. The following summary highlights key data points for the 8 measures available in FY 2025-26. During this period, the program served an average of 73 clients per quarter, with an average of four new enrollments and five discharges per quarter.
  - Mental Health Symptom Acuity: Clients successfully avoided crisis services such as inpatient hospitalization and incarceration, and TMHA followed up with 100% of clients discharged from inpatient hospitalization within a week of discharge. The crisis intervention measure is slightly above the target at 15%, compared to a goal of  $\leq 10\%$ . The program is currently not meeting the goal for timely assessment completion at 27%, compared to a goal of  $>95\%$ . This is attributed to staffing inconsistency at the practitioner level. TMHA has an action plan to improve this metric.
  - Stabilization in the Community: Program exceeding goals. Individuals placed in stable housing was 94%. Successful discharges was 100%.
- **FSP Lompoc:** FY 2025-26. The following summary highlights key data points for the 8 measures available in FY 2025-26. During this period, FSP Lompoc served an average of 59 clients per quarter, with an average of five new enrollments per quarter and two discharges.
  - Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program is currently meeting 3 out of 6 goals in this area, including low incarceration rates, and timely follow up after discharges from incarceration and inpatient hospital stays. Measures related to inpatient hospitalization (11%) and crisis interventions (12%) were higher than target rates ( $<5\%$  and  $<10\%$ , respectively). The measure related to assessment completion is not within target range at 9%, compared to a goal of ( $\geq 95\%$ ). This is attributed to staffing inconsistency at the practitioner level. TMHA has an action plan to improve this metric.
  - Stabilization in the Community: Clients with stable and permanent housing was 83%; goal is  $\geq 90\%$ . 75% of discharges were successful, below the goal of  $\geq 85\%$ .
- **Wellness Center North County:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. Wellness Center in Santa Maria served 162 unique clients across the first two quarters; they are on track to meet their annual goal

of 250 unique clients over the year. Thus far the program is on track to meet or exceed all other goals, including: outreach events, client visits, outreach events, support group meetings, classes and clients linked to additional services.

- **Wellness Center West County:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. Wellness Center in Lompoc served 57 unique clients across the first two quarters, which is projected to not meet their annual goal of 200 unique clients over the year. In order to try to increase the number of clients served, TMHA has started shifting their outreach focus from general events to targeted events for specific populations who might need or want specialty mental health services. The program is on track to meet or exceed all other goals, including: outreach events, client visits, support group meetings, classes and clients linked to additional services.
- **Family Advocate North County:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. Family Advocate in Santa Maria served 110 clients in the first two quarters; they are on track to meet the target goal of 200 per year. They are on track or have already exceeded all other annual goals, including client visits, outreach events, support group meetings, classes, clients linked to additional services and provided services in Spanish.
- **Family Advocate West County:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. Family Advocate in Lompoc served 97 clients in the first two quarters; they are on track to meet the target goal of 200 per year. They are on track or have already exceeded all other annual goals, including client visits, outreach events, support group meetings, classes, clients linked to additional services and provided services in Spanish.
- **Growing Grounds:** FY 2025-26 Q1 & Q2. Growing Grounds served 65 clients in Q1 and Q2, already exceeding their annual goal of 50 per year. Program performance related to workshops, trainings, and referrals for further job training already exceed annual targets.

**Fiscal Impacts:**

This agreement is funded with a combination of State and federal funds. All programs are funded with fee-for-service Medi-Cal Patient Revenue, which primarily consists of federal funds, with BHSA providing the match to all programs except the STRTP which is matched by 2011 State Realignment. The amount of federal funds is contingent on the client’s aid code and the State-issued rate for the service. There is no additional cost to the General Fund. Funding for this agreement was included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund	\$0	\$0
State BHSA	\$970,362	\$970,362
State Realignment	\$2,000	\$2,000
Medi-Cal Patient Revenue	\$2,134,233	\$2,134,233
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,106,595</b>	<b>\$3,106,595</b>

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) complete, signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to Chris Shorb at cshorb@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A – TMHA FY 2026-27 BC (Signature Required)**

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**Contact Information:**

Chris Shorb  
Contract Analyst  
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