

ANNUAL REPORT OF  
SERVICES

FOR 2021-2022

PROVIDED BY



## INTRODUCTION

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Chief Heitman.

In 2021 we continued to deal with multiple challenges in correctional healthcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Juvenile Justice Center, Main Jail and Northern Branch Jail facilities continue to work collaboratively with Sheriff's Office staff, Probation staff, and Santa Barbara Public Health in its efforts to protect staff, visitors, and those incarcerated from COVID-19. As we are all aware there are many risks associated with living and working in a congregate facility. Collaboratively with the assistance of our probation partners we've continued to mitigate the risk posed to those we are charged with caring for. A large portion of that risk mitigation is our continued efforts made to vaccinate those under our care.

We are thankful for the collaboration we have with our county partners including the Probation Department and we look forward to continuing to provide services for the incarcerated juvenile population.

Respectfully,

HSA Bailey Fogata

## ON-SITE MEDICAL CARE

Youth in custody have timely access to quality medical care. Patients request medical services via sick call slips, which are collected and triaged at least twice daily by medical nursing staff at each site. The juvenile sites do not have 24-hour nursing services so our on-call pediatrician is available by phone for medical issues when nursing is not on-site.

During contract year-five, on-site nursing staff completed 3307 clinic visits at Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and 497 clinic visits at Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC), which comprised of sick visits, immunization administration and laboratory services. In addition to the nursing visits, our board-certified pediatrician completed 535 medical clinic visits at JJC and 70 at LPBC. This includes but not limited to 115 Comprehensive Well Child visits, 288 sick visits and 75 chronic care visits at JJC. At LPBC, there were 5 Well Child visits, 43 sick visits and 22 chronic care visits. The on-site pediatrician sees all youth within 96 hours of intake and youth with chronic conditions are seen at least monthly. The most common chronic conditions seen by our pediatrician are asthma, obesity and hypertension.

Dental services are provided offsite and are addressed in the off-site medical care section.

Youth are offered recommended vaccinations during incarceration. The juvenile sites offer all immunizations recommended by the Center for Disease Control's 2022's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the 2022 Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. Vaccines are provided to youth through the Vaccine for Children's immunization program managed by the California Department of Public Health/Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. There were 150 immunizations administered at the juvenile sites in contract year five. The FDA provided approval Emergency Use Authorization for COVID vaccine for children 16 and over in April of 2021 and for 12 - 15 year olds in October of 2021. During contract year five, 69 COVID vaccines were given to youth. Psychosocial issues continue to be the biggest health issues facing incarcerated youth such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), substance use disorders and mental health issues including impacts of childhood trauma.

Due to the elevated risk of STIs among the juvenile population, all youth are offered comprehensive STI testing upon intake into the juvenile facilities regardless of symptoms. During their initial and annual intake exam, youth are tested for HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. All intakes are offered comprehensive STI testing. In contract year five, 15 incarcerated youth were treated for an STI which is approximately one in every ten youth tested. The most common STI treated at the detention facilities was chlamydia followed by gonorrhea. Females are tested for pregnancy at each intake and offered birth control/family planning services including emergency contraception. In contract year five, Wellpath continues to collaborate with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV) to provide sexual health counseling services for youth who test positive for STI or youth who are at high risk for STI.

Since addiction is a pediatric onset disease and youth in detention have higher rates of substance use disorders compared to youth in the community, all youth are screened for substance use disorders. Youth with positive screens are referred to Behavioral Wellness for treatment and to our board-certified addiction medicine pediatrician to assess for Medication Assisted treatment. The most commonly abused substances by the juvenile population continue to be cannabis, alcohol, prescription medications and psychostimulants. A significant increase in opioid use, especially fentanyl was noted in this contract year five. Youth identified as being at risk for withdrawal are appropriately monitored with detoxification

protocols based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidelines. There were no opioid overdoses requiring Narcan in contract year five.

All youth eligible for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for an opioid or alcohol use disorder are assessed by both our board-certified addiction medicine pediatrician and the Behavioral Wellness child and adolescent psychiatrist. In year five, four youth were started on MAT. All youth with history of opioid use are educated on harm reduction measures prior and released with Narcan, an opioid reversal agent. Wellpath works with community adolescent MAT providers to ensure linkage to care. All four youth started on MAT had an appointment with the community MAT provider prior to or on the day of release from custody.

There were no emergency responses by medical staff for contract year five. Three youth were sent to the Emergency Department. One of those youth was transported by ambulance for ingestion of unknown substance.

## OFF-SITE MEDICAL CARE

There are no specialty services provided on-site at the juvenile facilities. Off-site care is provided by specialists who contract directly with the Probation Department.

There were 107 off-site specialty appointments at JJC (68) and LPBC (39) with dental appointments accounting for 67% of all off-site appointments. This is similar to previous contract years but higher number of dental appointments due to community providers reopening offices for routine visits. Per National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) standards, youth are to see a dentist within 60 days of incarceration. All youth needing urgent or emergent dental care were able to get appointments but routine exams were difficult to get within 60 days due to backlog of appointments in our dental provider (Community Health Centers). There were 67 dental appointments followed by 12 optometry appointments, 12 appointments with private providers (orthopedics most commonly) and 2 outpatient hand surgeries. 14 youth were sent for X-rays in contract year five.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

Wellpath partners with CorrectRx Pharmacy to provide pharmaceutical services for the juvenile facilities. Wellpath and Behavioral Wellness follow the Wellpath and Medi-Cal formulary to ensure youth are continued on their medications at intake without delay.

There were 17,951 doses of medication administered during contract year five by nursing or health trained Probation staff when medical is not on-site. There were 6711 doses of mental health medications 3436 doses of non-mental health prescription medications and 7804 doses of over the counter medications administered during year five. The most common mental health medications are for insomnia and Attention Deficit Disorder medications. The non-mental health prescription medications used most commonly for acne, allergies and antibiotics. The most commonly used over the counter medications were for acne, dry skin and allergies.

Wellpath continues to have quarterly pharmacy audits conducted by a contracted local pharmacist. During contract year five, there were no deficiencies found or corrective actions required for all four pharmacy audits.

## NATIONAL COMMISSION OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE

In contract year four, the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare granted the juvenile sites full three-year accreditation meeting 100% of both the essential and important standards. Our next NCCHC audit will be in 2023.

## SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Wellpath is audited on a quarterly basis by the Santa Barbara Public Health Department to evaluate for compliance of service level agreements with Probation. There were no corrective actions needed for year five. Please see Exhibit B for our yearly summary from Public Health. Wellpath will continue with the current SLA's outlined in our contract.

The Santa Barbara Public Health Department also conducted our annual Title 15 inspection and found no deficiencies with no corrective actions required.

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The COVID pandemic continued to have significant impacts on operations within the juvenile institutions. Probation and Wellpath remained vigilant and modified protocols as needed to respond to new recommendations from local, state and federal public health agencies.

Within contract year five, 5 youth tested positive for COVID within the facility. Four cases of COVID-19 were identified during the 10-day intake observation period within the intake unit. All youth receive a COVID test at intake and day 9 and are monitored daily for symptoms during the observation period. Any symptomatic youth are tested as well. After completing the 10 days observation period, youth are transferred to a living unit. There was one case of COVID in a youth who had been in custody long term and became symptomatic for COVID while in a living unit. The source of infection was never identified and there were no subsequent cases related to this youth. During the winter peak of community COVID in 2022, all staff entering the SMJJC and at LPBC were required to wear N95 respirators to reduce/prevent spread of COVID within the facility. That requirement was lifted when community levels decreased in early spring. In-person visitations were also changed to zoom visits to decrease introduction of COVID into facility during that time. In-person visits resumed in early spring with precautions.

Throughout the pandemic, Probation and Wellpath staff consistently refined policies and procedures and worked collaboratively to ensure for the safety of all youth, staff and visitors. Although the facility encountered positive cases during the course of this pandemic, staffs' quick responses likely prevented the burden of COVID infection from becoming larger and infecting the entire facility.

Since the COVID vaccine became available, Wellpath has offered vaccine to eligible persons. In contract year 5, 151 doses of COVID vaccine were administered to staff and youth. As stated previously, in contract year-5 youth became eligible to receive the COVID vaccine and 69 vaccines were given to youth. At the end of contract year 5, 52% of youth at SMJJC and 86% of youth at LPBC were up to date on their COVID vaccine. The youth not up to date on their vaccine either declined the vaccine or their parent declined the vaccine. We continue to offer all youth COVID vaccine at every

clinic visit if they are not up to date and provide education on COVID vaccine and dispelling common myths regarding the vaccine.

We continue to work together with the Probation to modify policies and procedures as the pandemic changes and continue to follow recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. We are extremely proud of our efforts and are continually looking for ways to improve our processes.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

There were no writs or adverse medical events at the juvenile facilities.  
In year five, there were no medical grievances filed by youth.

## IN-CUSTODY DEATHS

In contract year - five, there were no in-custody deaths.