



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: August 29, 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: Laura Zeitz, Division Chief, Inpatient/Housing/Long Term Care
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
**SUBJECT: Institutions for Mental Disease FY 23-26 Board Contract Renewal:
Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc.**

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 an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc.**, (not a local vendor), an Institution for Mental Disease and skilled nursing facility for the provision of mental health services and residential treatment services for a total contract amount not to exceed **\$4,575,000**; inclusive of \$1,475,000 for FY 23-24, \$1,525,000 for FY 24-25, and \$1,575,000 for FY 25-26, for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement and make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement, adjust the Maximum Daily Rate per Exhibit B-1, and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests approval to execute an Agreement for Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) for skilled nursing facility services for FY 23-26 with Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc. (VPE). Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Behavioral Wellness to continue to provide mandated mental health and ancillary services to its clients.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of specialty mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part through contracted providers. Contracts with facilities providing services at various levels of care are key to ensuring that the needs of clients are optimally met.

IMDs are facilities including hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental illness, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services. There are a limited number of these highly structured residential treatment services in California and none in Santa Barbara County. BWell contracts with IMDs that are licensed as acute psychiatric hospitals, skilled nursing facilities with special treatment patches, and mental health rehabilitation centers. BWell also contracts with IMD-alternative facilities, which are unlocked facilities providing highly structural residential programs for clients transitioning out of IMDs.

VPE has two California facilities: Vista Pacifica Center and Vista Pacifica Convalescent, located in Riverside, California. Vista Pacifica Center specializes in geropsychology and offers four levels of service for residents who require high levels of supervision with behavioral and medical needs including: being absent without leave; being extremely verbally aggressive or threatening and abusive toward staff and peers; being suicidal; destroying property; and having severe psychosis which requires frequent redirection, counseling, and behavior modification from staff.

Vista Pacifica Convalescent specializes in Alzheimer's care and offers three levels of care: Level A focuses on residents with chronic mental health diagnoses and with active delusions and 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. Approval of this Board Contract renewal will allow for necessary mental health services to continue to be provided without a gap in services.

Performance Outcomes:

In prior contract years, the Contractor has achieved its outcomes to the required standards set forth in the agreement and within the allocated budget.

VPE had the following outcomes for FY 2022-23:

VPE served an average of 117 clients per quarter with 14 discharges. VPE met four (4) of their seven (7) goals; no clients received emergency care with a goal of 10% or less; 4% of clients were hospitalized for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; no clients were incarcerated with a goal of 5% or less; 15% of unique clients were discharged to a higher level of care with a goal of 15% or less. Of the three (3) goals VPE did not meet; 11% of unique clients were admitted to acute psychiatric inpatient care with a goal of 10% or less; 6% of clients had incidents required a higher level of supervision with a goal of 5% or less; 60% of clients discharged to a lower level of care with a goal of 85% or more.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Vista Pacifica FY 23-24</u>	<u>Vista Pacifica FY 24-25</u>	<u>Vista Pacifica FY 25-26</u>	<u>Total FY 23-26 Cost</u>
General Fund				
State	1,475,000.00	1,525,000.00	1,575,000.00	
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 1,475,000.00	\$ 1,525,000.00	\$ 1,575,000.00	\$ 4,575,000.00

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State funds. The recommended contract increases will be funded through existing IMD and acute hospital contract savings and an unanticipated increase in realignment revenue by the State.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded by State sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments. Behavioral Wellness contracts include language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to County. There is also a risk that the Contractor’s costs may exceed the 3.5% increase in Years 2 and 3. A 3.5% annual increase is already built into the existing agreement, Any increases in excess of that amount would likely be offset by reduced client placements or lower cost placements. County will monitor the number of placements and contract cost to ensure that it remains within contracted levels. If an increase is needed then County will return to the Board for approval.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc. FY 23-24 Board Contract

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to Amber Foschaar at cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Authored by:

A. Foschaar