



Annual Report of Wellpath Juvenile Detention Health Services

presented to the

Santa Barbara County Probation Department Santa Maria, California

Holly Benton, Chief Probation Officer
Carrick Adam MD, Medical Director



April 1, 2023



“Always Do the Right Thing”

Some think this guiding principle is simply an aspirational company tagline, but it was actually something said to us by one of our long-term county partners who stated, “What I appreciate most about working with you is I can count on you to always do the right thing.” From the exam room to the corporate boardroom, this code is truly our beacon of excellence and what we believe makes the difference to our patients, people, and partners.

Introduction

The healthcare services provided to the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Detention Facilities are provided under contract by Wellpath. This Annual Report summarizes the medical and ancillary care provided during the past contract year.

Wellpath appreciates its partnership with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. It is a relationship that began in 2017 with the mutual goal of providing competent and cost-efficient healthcare to our patients. Our partnership is professional and collaborative. Together, our teams have raised the effectiveness of our medical services program. I especially want to thank the efforts of former Chief Heitman and former DCPO Kim Shean for maintaining a strong medical program in Santa Barbara County. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Chief Holly Benton and Deputy Chief Samuel Leach.

Our teams have collaborated to raise the effectiveness of medical and mental health services.

Over the past year of service to you, we have:

- Collaborated with Behavioral Wellness to increase services for youth with Substance Use Disorders and increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment
- Prevented spread of COVID within the juvenile facilities due to our comprehensive COVID Plan and vaccination program.

In the current year, we plan to do what:

- Aid in ensuring a comprehensive facility response to the increasing opioid use amongst youth
- Strengthening our collaboration with Probation to ensure compliance for NCCHC accreditation.

There are many thanks to go around. Tiffany Phillips, Barton Clark, Leslie Stamm, Noah Spveck and Sarah Miller have all helped ensure the success of our entire program. We remain impressed by the compassion, hard work, and partnership of Dr. Ian Jones, Jon Masuda, Kisha Ojeda and all the therapists from Behavioral Wellness.

We look forward to making the coming year our most successful ever by living up to our obligation to “always do the right thing” for you, your patients, and the Santa Barbara County community.

Sincerely,

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Services Provided

 <p>Comprehensive Medical Services</p> <p>Assessment & Appraisals <i>Receiving screenings; health assessments</i></p> <p>Access to Care <i>Triage & sick call; on-site clinics; telemedicine; eConsults</i></p> <p>Off-site Coordination <i>Emergency & hospitalization arrangements; case management</i></p> <p>Education <i>Patient health education programs; correctional staff training programs</i></p> <p>National Contracts <i>Pharmacy; laboratory; radiology</i></p> <p>Substance Use Disorder Treatment <i>Medically supervised withdrawal management; Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)</i></p> <p>Medically Necessary Diet Programs</p> <p>Dental Screening and Referral to Treatment</p> <p>Vision Screening and Referral to Treatment</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Treatment Teams</p> <p>Infection Control</p>	 <p>Administrative & Operational Services</p> <p>Utilization Management <i>Web-based Care Management system</i></p> <p>Electronic Record Management Application (ERMA®) <i>EMR & eMAR technology built for corrections</i></p> <p>Accreditation <i>NCCCHC</i></p> <p>Clinical Quality Assurance <i>Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) & Medical Administrative Committee (MAC) programs</i></p> <p>Reporting and Accountability <i>Automated reports; compliance tracking</i></p>
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Statistics

General - SMJJC

- SMJJC ADP - 24
- MD Encounters – 625
- Intake History & Physicals – 129
- MD sick calls – 370
- MD chronic care visits – 89
- MAT – 7
- Nurse encounters - 5120
- Separation checks – 607
- COVID cases – 2
- Prescriptions medication doses – 10,792
- Psychiatric medication doses– 64%
- Immunizations administered - 168
- Labs – 721
- Telemedicine – 2 (ob/gyn, derm)
- ED referrals – 9 (1 via ambulance)
- Grievances – 0
- Patient deaths – 0

General - LPBC

- LPBC ADP - 5
- MD Encounters – 69
- Intake History & Physicals – 1
- MD sick calls – 48
- MD chronic care visits – 20
- MAT – 1
- Nurse encounters - 676
- COVID cases – 0
- Prescriptions medication doses – 1872
- Psychiatric medication doses– 70%
- Immunizations administered - 14
- Labs – 125
- Telemedicine – 1
- ED referrals – 3
- Grievances – 0
- Patient deaths – 0

Service Delivery

On-Site 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-six, on-site nursing staff completed 5120 encounters at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) up from 3307 in contract year-5 and 676 encounters at Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) up from 497 the previous contract year. Nursing encounters are comprised of sick visits, segregation checks, immunization administration and laboratory services. In addition to the nursing encounters, our board-certified pediatrician saw an increased number of visits with 625 medical clinic visits at JJC and 69 at LPBC. This includes 129 Comprehensive Well Child visits, 370 sick visits and 89 chronic care visits at JJC. At LPBC, there was 1 Well Child visits, 48 sick visits and 20 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 acne.

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

Youth are offered recommended immunizations during incarceration. The juvenile sites offer all immunizations recommended by the Center for Disease Control's 2022's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. 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 182 vaccines administered at the juvenile sites in contract year six including the COVID vaccine. Vaccine rates for COVID at the end of contract year six were 53% for youth at SMJJC and 75% for LPBC. This was due to declination by either youth or parent refusal. Up to date rates for other childhood vaccines remain above the 90th%. Year 7 goals include increasing COVID vaccination rates among 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 and gonorrhea and syphilis. At all other intakes youth are offered comprehensive STI testing. In contract year six, 16 incarcerated youth were treated for an STI which is approximately 17% of tests completed. 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.

All youth are screened for substance use disorders during the intake examination. Addiction is a pediatric onset disease and youth in detention have higher rates of substance use disorders compared to youth in

the community. Youth with positive screens are referred to Behavioral Wellness for referral to treatment and to our board-certified Addiction Medicine Pediatrician to assess for Medication Assisted treatment. The most commonly abused substances by the juvenile population continues to be cannabis, alcohol, illicit prescription medications and psychostimulants. We are continuing to see a trend of increasing opioid use among incarcerated youth, especially fentanyl. A chart review of youth at the end of contract year 6 showed that almost one-third of youth in custody endorse use of opioids in the community. Youth identified as being at risk for withdrawal of opioids or alcohol 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 six.

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 six, 8 youth were started on MAT for opioid use disorder or alcohol use disorder. All youth with history of opioid use are educated on harm reduction measures prior to release and are released with Narcan, an opioid reversal agent. Wellpath works with Behavioral Wellness transition coordinator and community adolescent MAT providers to ensure linkage to care. All 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 six. A total of 11 youth were sent to the Emergency Department during contract year 6 with one requiring transportation via ambulance.

Off-Site Care

Off-site care is provided according to appropriateness and necessity only, based on consultation with the on-site provider.

SMJJC:

- Total off-site care: 137
- Total eConsult sessions: 1
- Dental appointments: 81 (59%)
- Radiology: 18 (13%)
- Vision: 3 (6%)

LPBC:

- Total off-site care: 44
- Total eConsult sessions: 1
- Dental appointments: 35 (80%)
- Radiology: 4 (9%)
- Vision: 12 (9%)

Off-site appointments increased in contract year 6 with almost double the number of dental appointments. There were 67 dental appointments in contract year 5 and 116 in contract year 6. This is

due to having to “catch up” on dental appointments since dental offices were closed during the first year of COVID.

Medication/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 12,664 doses of prescription medication administered during contract year six by nursing or health trained Probation staff when medical is not on-site. Psychiatric medications made up 64% of doses at SMJJC and 70% of doses at LPBC. The most common mental health medications are for insomnia and Attention Deficit Disorder. Non-mental health prescription medications that are used most commonly are for acne, allergies and antibiotics. There were 11,250 doses of over the counter medication (OTC) doses given at the facilities. The most commonly used over the counter creams/medications were for dry skin, acne, allergies and acetaminophen/ibuprofen.

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

Grievances

There were no medical grievances in contract year 6.

Critical Incidences

There were no critical medical incidents in contract year 6.

Deaths

There were no deaths in contract year 6.

COVID Response

Our COVID plan for contract year 6 evolved with the ever-changing recommendations by the CDC and CDPH. Increasing vaccination rates for facility staff and youth was a priority as was prevention of COVID spread within the facility. We were successful at reducing spread due to our comprehensive COVID plan to reduce the introduction of COVID into the facility, ensuring a prompt response to positive cases or exposures and high rates of vaccination. All youth are tested for COVID upon entry into the facility and anytime they have symptoms consistent with COVID. Eighty-seven doses of COVID vaccine were given in contract year 6. There were only two youth who tested positive for COVID at intake in contract year 6 who were promptly isolated to prevent spread within the facility

Training and Development

- Correctional staff were trained on a variety of health topics such as Healthcare Liaison role, Receiving Screening, Opioids and Overdose prevention, access to care, chronic medical conditions in adolescents and emergency response.
- We conducted several successful man-down drills with subsequent training on suicide, heat illness, opioid overdose and asthma attack that included medical and correctional staff. Our annual disaster drill was done in November 2022 with a mass opioid overdose scenario which included medical and correctional staff.
- 100% of the nursing staff completed the required continuation and required training in 2022. Training records remain on file in the medical section.

National Commission of Correctional Healthcare

Accreditation Preparation

The Juvenile sites were granted full three-year accreditation from NCHC in contract year 4 and met 100% of all essential and important standards. Our next audit is due in October 2023.

Audits

Service Level Agreement Audits

Wellpath is audited on a quarterly basis by the Santa Barbara Public Health Department to evaluate compliance of the service level agreements with Probation. There were no corrective actions needed for contract year 6. Please see exhibit B for the summary of the audits for contract year 6.

Title 15 – Medical Section Inspection

Santa Barbara Public Health Department also completes the annual Title 15 medical section inspection and found no deficiencies for Wellpath or any corrective actions required for Wellpath.

The Year Ahead

Opioid Preparedness/Responsiveness

For the coming year, Wellpath will continue to educate and train youth and facility staff on the dangers of opioids including fentanyl and train staff to identify and respond to potential opioid use, withdrawal and overdose within the facility. Wellpath will also continue to strengthen our ties to the BeWell transition team for Alcohol and Drug and to community MAT providers.

COVID response

As the COVID pandemic state of emergency is lifted, we will continue to monitor and respond to COVID within the facility while moving toward more normal procedures in regards to facility operations. We will continue to offer COVID vaccines to youth and staff.

Communication Between Agencies

Another priority in contract year 7 will be to continue to strengthen our relationship and communication with Probation and other facility partners to ensure that the health needs of the youth in the facility continues to be met.

