



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:** September 12, 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: Jamie Huthsing, Division Chief of Quality Care Management,  
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220  
**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness – First Amendment to California Mental Health Services  
Authority (CalMHSA) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program  
(BHQIP) Participation Agreement Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2024

---

**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 a **First Amendment to California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) Participation Agreement No. 1303-BHQIP-2022-SB-A1** to increase the Agreement by \$20,000 to procure subject matter expert consultation services for the development, implementation, and continued support of the County's Behavioral Health Plan to meet milestones required to complete the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) BHQIP mandated deliverables, for a Maximum Agreement Amount not to exceed **\$42,080** inclusive of an administrative fee, from the date of execution by the County through June 30, 2024 (Attachment A); and
- B. 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 organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The above-referenced item is on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) or designee to execute a First Amendment to California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) Participation Agreement No. 1303-BHQIP-2022-SB-A1 to increase the Agreement by \$20,000. The proposed amendment will allow BWell to procure subject matter expert consultation services for the development, implementation, and continued support of the County's Behavioral Health Plan to meet milestones required to complete the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) BHQIP mandated deliverables, for a Maximum Agreement Amount not to exceed \$42,080 from the date of execution by the County through June 30, 2024.

**Background:**

The California Government Code ("Joint Exercise of Powers Act," Section 6500 et seq.) permits two or more public agencies to jointly exercise powers common to the contracting parties through an agreement. CalMHSA is a Joint Powers Authority formed in 2009 for the purpose of creating a separate public entity to provide administrative and fiscal services in support of its members. CalMHSA assists its members with the operation of various programs to contract and/or negotiate with the State or other providers; and contract and/or negotiate with the State or Federal government for administration of mental health services, programs or activities, including managed mental health care and the delivery of specialty mental health services.

In 2014, the Board approved Behavioral Wellness' membership in CalMHSA. CalMHSA provides fiscal or administrative services to its members such as group purchasing, contract management, research and development, data management, maintenance of a research depository, technical assistance, capacity building, education, and training; and execution of policy requests. CalMHSA also provides its members with the ability to deal jointly with the DHCS, Department of State Hospitals, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and the legislature. BWell currently has five agreements with CalMHSA--to deliver services for loan repayment, state hospital beds, Tech Suite, Help@Hand, and payment of Presumptive Transfer, all of which were previously approved by the Board.

On September 13, 2022 the Board approved the CalMHSA BHQIP Participation Agreement for No. 1303-BHQIP-SB for FY 2022-2024. Under CalAIM, BHQIP is an incentive payment program to support Mental Health Plans, Drug Medi-Cal State Plans, and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems, as they prepare for changes in the CalAIM initiative and other approved administration priorities. CalAIM is a DHCS initiative to reform the Medi-Cal program to help address many of the complex challenges facing California's most vulnerable residents. It offers beneficiaries a more equitable, coordinated, person-centered approach to maximize their health.

Under the current BHQIP Participation Agreement, CalMHSA provides BWell with assistance to achieve the Policy Change Milestone to update Utilization Management Protocols by conducting a landscape analysis of documentation audit practices and draft an updated Utilization Management protocol to comply with best practices and updated documentation audit standards. Additionally, it provides services to achieve the Data Exchange Milestone. CalMHSA collects and analyzes Managed Care Plan data to establish a baseline for three performance measures: Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence, Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness, and Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder.

Under this amendment, CalMHSA will provide additional subject matter expert services consisting of: fiscal/payment reform, interoperability, data analytics and ad hoc consultation services. BWell will be able to purchase hours up to a maximum predetermined amount of \$20,000, and spend the funds to procure the professional consultation services listed, along with the initial professional services of project management and clinical services, through a flexible spending account. The BWell Director or designee will authorize the allocation of the service and hours through a work order process.

**Performance Measure:**

CalMHSA facilitates the efficient use of resources for multiple public entities by providing group purchasing power, joint development of requests for proposal and contracts for services, reduced overhead costs through sharing of the expenses of administration and reporting, and shared research and strategies. CalMHSA’s administration of this program will result in greater efficiency in the implementation of these mandated services for compliance with state and federal requirements.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

| <b><u>Funding Sources</u></b> | <b><u>BHQIP Cost<br/>FY 22-24</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Fund                  |                                       |
| State                         | \$ 21,040.00                          |
| Federal                       | \$ 21,040.00                          |
| Fees                          |                                       |
| Other:                        |                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$ 42,080.00</b>                   |

Narrative: If the County does not use the funds allocated to the Professional Services Flexible Spending Account the funds will be returned to the County less the 15% administrative fee. Funding for this amendment has been included in the FY 2023-2024 Adopted Budget.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The County may withdraw from the Program upon six months’ written notice to CalMHSA.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the above items to Amber Foschaar at [cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org](mailto:cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org) and the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: CalMHSA FY 22-24 PA No. 1303-BHQIP-2022-SB-A1

Attachment B: CalMHSA FY 22-24 PA No. 1303-BHQIP-2022-SB

**Authored by:**

A. Foschaar