



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 9, 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: Ole Behrendtsen, M.D., Medical Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness
SUBJECT: Contractor on Payroll Services Agreement Renewals for John Onssy Anis, M.D. and
Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. for Fiscal Year 2026-27

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Concurrence

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 Contractor on Payroll with John Onssy Anis, M.D. for the provision of medical support services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$30,000;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Contractor on Payroll with Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. for the provision of medical support services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$40,000; 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) and (b)(5), finding that the actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or administrative or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The above-referenced items are on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize the Chair to renew two agreements, one with John Onssy Anis, M.D. and one with Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. Through these agreements, the physicians will provide backup medical support services when the sole full-time equivalent (FTE) physician is unavailable for the County's Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). The agreements are for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and include a total amount of \$30,000 for Dr. Anis and \$40,000 for Dr. Haq.

Discussion:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP). BWell has experienced ongoing difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified, licensed professionals to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services. A COP helps bridge gaps in mental health treatment service capacity.

Both COPs, Dr. Anis and Dr. Haq, provide essential and necessary medical support services for the County's PHF, a 16-bed inpatient psychiatric facility, by serving as backup to the sole FTE physician at the PHF. Backup services are provided when the sole FTE physician is unavailable due to illness, vacation, or other leave, totaling a few weeks per year. An internist must be available at the PHF at all times, thus the backup coverage provided under these contracts is necessary to ensure uninterrupted operation of the PHF.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to continue providing critical services in the County's PHF without a gap in services.

Background:

The County continues to experience difficulty recruiting a sufficient number of qualified professionals to meet departmental needs, despite maintaining continuous recruitment efforts.

BWell has contracted with John Onssy Anis, M.D. since April 2023 and with Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. since March 2023 for medical support services. Dr. Anis and Dr. Haq both provide back-up internal medicine duties and coverage, "on-call", and as-scheduled or as-needed, for the current County PHF which shall include but not limited to:

- a) complete medical histories and physicals for PHF patients within 24 hours of admittance and providing follow-up medical care;
- b) prescribe medication, treatment, and ordering tests;
- c) review PHF patients' clinical records;
- d) provide telephone consultation or on-site medical evaluations in circumstances in which PHF nursing staff believe that there may be an emergency medical condition for a patient at the PHF; and
- e) remain "on-call" and available to provide evaluations after on-site internal medicine duties have concluded for the day unless otherwise agreed with County.

In June 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved renewals of the agreements for Dr. Anis and Dr. Haq for the provision of medical support services.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding for these expenditures will come from Medi-Cal (Federal) and Realignment (State) sources. Sufficient appropriations were included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget, subject to Board of Supervisors' approval. There is no additional cost to the General Fund.

These expenditures are ongoing due to the difficulty of recruiting medical professionals into public service.

Funding Source	FY 2026-27	Total
Federal	\$35,000	\$35,000
State	\$35,000	\$35,000
Total	\$70,000	\$70,000

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above contract and one (1) Minute Order to Svetlana Arriaga at sarriaga@sbcbswell.org, to auditorgrouppayrollstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us, to HRClass&Comp@countyofsb.org, and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – John Onssy Anis, M.D. FY 2026-27 Contractor on Payroll (signature required)

Attachment B – Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. FY 2026-27 Contractor on Payroll (signature required)

Contact Information:

Svetlana Arriaga
Contracts Analyst
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