



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: December 7, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Acting Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5220
Contact Info: John Winckler, LMFT, Division Chief of Clinical Operations
Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5236
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Santa Barbara County Education Office Agreement FY 21-22

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 Santa Barbara County Education Office in support of Mental Health Student Services Act of 2019 grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082) for mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed \$462,788 for the period of 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2022;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to rescind the permission regarding publicity or endorsement per Section 12 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 25 of the Agreement; reallocate funds between funding sources per Exhibit B of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E of the Agreement, all without altering the Maximum Contract Amount and without requiring formal 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 fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which 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:

This item is on the agenda to request approval of entering into agreement with Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) as a subcontractor under the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant award with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) in the amount of \$462,788 over a one-year period.

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Department of Behavioral Wellness to fulfill grant program requirements to expand access to mental health services in partnership with schools to children and youth.

Background:

On July 13, 2021 the Board of Supervisors approved the first-year agreement with SBCEO in support of the MHSSA grant award for a total contract amount not to exceed \$465,413 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

On September 15, 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved acceptance of the MHSSA grant award with MHSOAC for a total of \$4,000,000 over a four-year period. As a part of programmatic requirements, SBCEO will continue work as a subcontractor to expand access to mental health services in schools through the Navigator program.

Services will be delivered by staff hired specifically for grant-related positions that include Navigators through SBCEO and Behavioral Wellness Clinicians, Research & Evaluator, and Project Manager. The Program will be coordinated through a Partnership Group that is co-facilitated by Behavioral Wellness and SBCEO and will include representatives from each participating school district, community-based organizations, primary healthcare and insurance providers.

Behavioral Wellness has supported and collaborated with Santa Barbara County school districts through coordination of the Bridges Conference, active in the School Wellness Summit by providing counseling in a few districts, and coordinating the monthly Childrens' Action Team Meetings. During the development of the grant application, Behavioral Wellness collaborated with the Santa Barbara County Education Office and various community agencies to create a comprehensive approach to bridge services gaps and increase access and linkages to mental health services for TK – 12th grade students. Activities under the program will include suicide prevention, drop-out prevention, placement assistance for students needing higher levels of care, and outreach to high-risk youth including foster, LGBTQ and students who have been removed from the school environment through suspension and/or expulsion. Through the new formalized partnership, students will also be provided with prevention and early intervention programming to support reductions in mental health stigma and staff will be provided with professional development opportunities to increase their capacity around student mental health.

Funding includes hiring Behavioral Health Clinicians (1.5 FTE) and contracting with a community-based organization for Service Navigators (6.0 FTE) to provide direct services and linkages to students and their families. Additional personnel include a .25 FTE Research/Evaluator to assist with data collection,

analysis, and grant reporting and a 1.0 FTE Project Manager to coordinate grant programming along with ensuring the goals of the MHSSA Grant are met.

Performance Measure:

MHSSA grants are to be used to provide support services that address the following goals:

1. Preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling,
2. Improving timely access to services for underserved populations,
3. Providing outreach to families, employers, primary health care providers, and other to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness,
4. Reducing the stigma associated with the diagnosis of a mental illness or seeking mental health services,
5. Reducing discrimination against people with mental illness, and
6. Preventing negative outcomes in the targeted population, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Suicide and attempted suicide
 - b. Incarceration
 - c. School failure and dropout
 - d. Unemployment
 - e. Prolonged suffering
 - f. Homelessness
 - g. Removal of children from their homes, and
 - h. Involuntary mental health detentions.

SBCEO and Behavioral Wellness (BWELL) have been meeting weekly to start implementation of the MHSSA grant after the Program manager was hired. SBCEO and BWELL have been meeting with the North County school districts to assess school needs, current services in place and establish how the program can support them. BWELL and SBCEO have been conducting interviews for the Health Navigator positions. The required monthly community linkage meeting has been occurring consistently and the MHSSA Program Manager became the co-chair in August assisting with planning and developing this community meeting.

Counties must report to MHSOAC about the disposition of funds, the services provided, and the number of individuals who received services within 60 days of execution of the MHSOAC's contract, on a quarterly basis, and provide an annual report to measure the goals of:

1. Reduce suicide and suicide ideation;
2. Reduce homelessness;
3. Reduce unemployment through linkages to vocational training;
4. Reduce school failure through linkage to educational support services;
5. Reduce criminal justice involvement for individuals with Mental Illness;
6. Establish additional mental health partnerships with local school entities;
7. Increase access to mental health care for students and families; and
8. Increase outreach to high-risk youth.

The County is expected to provide all services, including any and all required reports, in a timely manner – in accordance with criteria articulated in the Agreement’s Statement of Work. Specifically, fund disbursement pursuant to the MHSOAC Grant Agreement is tied to meeting goal outcomes. The project team anticipates no difficulty in meeting the targets.

The County shall not disclose data or documents or disseminate the contents of the final or any preliminary report without written permission of MHSOAC. The County will otherwise comply with open record and privacy laws, as applicable.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes.

Fiscal Analysis:

| <u>Funding Sources</u> | <u>Time Project Cost FY 21-22:</u> | <u>Total One-Time Project Cost for FY 21-22:</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| General Fund | | |
| State | \$ 462,788 | \$ 462,788 |
| Federal | | |
| Fees | | |
| Other: | | |
| Total | \$ 462,788 | \$ 462,788 |

Narrative: The above referenced contract is funded through State funds and covered through MHSOAC grant funding.

Key Contract Risks:

This grant agreement is cost reimbursed; therefore, MHSOAC will reimburse Behavioral Wellness based upon the expenditures submitted quarterly. 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 the County. Negotiations with SBCEO resulted in changes to Section 12 (No Publicity or Endorsement) of the County’s Standard Terms and Conditions. Potential risks associated with these changes have been mitigated with input from the applicable departments.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract to abello@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: SBCEO Agreement FY 2021-2022

Authored by:

Ana Bello