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Wellpath Contract Oversight

December 5, 2023
County Executive Office

- On September 12, 2023, your Board directed staff to evaluate options for additional contract oversight from Public Health.
- Sheriff's Office, Probation, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, and CEO's Office staff subsequently met and discussed options for providing varying levels of additional oversight to the Wellpath contract.
- The current Wellpath contract is set to expire on March 31, 2024 and presents an opportunity to consider changes to how it is administered.

Objectives for Contract Oversight

- Provide for high-quality healthcare outcomes for inmates and detainees
- Prepare the jail and juvenile hall for CalAIM implementation, which will require significant new services and processes
- Ensure accountability of the private medical provider and County staff responsible for compliance, which could require clearer definition of roles and potentially more County compliance staff
- Develop processes to allow quick and effective communication and collaboration among the private medical provider, jail operations staff, Probation, PHD, and BWell staff
- Provide greater transparency as to performance and compliance

- Add clinical staff to Public Health, assigned at the jail/juvenile hall, to provide health care oversight and compliance monitoring
 - PHD personnel would provide ongoing feedback to Sheriff's Office, Probation, and vendor, to ultimately improve medical and mental health services provided
 - Funded from Litigation, Compliance, and Contractual Obligations Set-Aside in General County Programs
- Ensure access to Wellpath's Electronic Health Records, reports, and data
- Support additional administrative needs in the jail, via non-sworn, administrative staff to help bolster contract compliance, CalAIM implementation, and enhanced quality improvements
 - Funded through reallocating existing Sheriff staff and anticipated CalAIM PATH 3 grant funding

Staff Recommendation (cont.)

- Modify Wellpath's contract in advance of its expiration in April 2024 to more clearly define PHD's role to provide clinical oversight, recommendations to the Sheriff's Office, and updates to your Board
- Increase monitoring by PHD and BWell to include additional metrics beyond those they currently track
 - PHD could seek additional independent monitoring from consultants
- Leverage PHD's expertise to assist the jail with implementing CalAIM requirements
- Require the newly dedicated PHD and jail resources to monitor and regularly report out on contract performance measures, service level agreement shortfalls, and expand upon them through collaboration and negotiation with vendor
- Utilize corrective action plans or penalties as appropriate to administer contract

Staff considered several alternatives, including to:

- Continue contract administration under Sheriff's Office and Probation, while adding dedicated staff within Sheriff's Office to provide added oversight monitoring
 - May limit the ability of Public Health to oversee increased monitoring plans and to negotiate directly with Wellpath, which could result in delays and limitations
- Transfer contract administration from Sheriff's Office and Probation to PHD
 - Would provide the most direct oversight monitoring by Public Health, but Sheriff's Office believes this scenario would interfere with Sheriff's sole and exclusive statutory authority to keep and operate the county jail and prisoners within it

Next Steps and Timeline

- Recruitment with HR and PHD for clinician position – currently underway
- PHD and BWell increasing contract monitoring – currently underway
- Next one-year extension and amendment of Wellpath contract to BOS – in early 2024
 - Will include modifications to define PHD's role in clinical oversight
- Development of RFP with consultant assistance – in 2024
- Update to BOS from PHD – in mid-2024

- a) Receive and file the 2022 Annual Report prepared by CFMG/Wellpath for healthcare services at the Sheriff's Office detention facilities;
- b) Receive report and provide direction for Public Health expanded monitoring of the Agreement with CFMG/Wellpath and continued partnership with Public Health and Behavioral Wellness over healthcare services at the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department detention facilities; and
- c) Find that this is not a CEQA project.