




**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: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
Agenda Date: July 14, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner 
Contact: Lieutenant David Harman
SUBJECT: California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) 2025 Annual Report for Healthcare Services at Sheriff's Jail Facilities

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: County Health

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the 2025 annual report (Attachment A) prepared by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG/Wellpath) regarding the Healthcare Services within Sheriff's Office jail facilities;
- b) Receive and file the Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2025 Annual Report (Attachment B); and
- c) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive and file the 2025 Annual Report from California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG), operating as Wellpath, the County's contracted provider of healthcare services in the jail system. The report summarizes healthcare services provided during 2025, major program activities, quality improvement efforts and key operational trends. Highlights include

expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, enhancement of discharge planning and chronic disease management, continued improvement in mental health services and accreditation achievements for both jail facilities.

This item also includes the Sheriff's Office Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2025 Annual Report, which provides an overview of healthcare related grievances and their resolution. Together, these reports provide the Board with an annual overview of correctional healthcare services, patient concerns, and healthcare operations within the County's jail facilities.

Discussion:

This item is before your Board to receive Wellpath's 2025 Annual Report and the Sheriff's Office Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2025 Annual Report. Under the County's contract for correctional medical and mental health services, CFMG, operating as Wellpath, is required to submit an annual report to the County and Board of Supervisors. The contract requires the report to provide a comprehensive overview of monthly statistical and program reports, examine significant trends and issues, and inform the Board regarding the overall operation of the healthcare delivery system and significant achievements affecting the healthcare program. The Sheriff's Office's Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2025 Annual Report provides a synopsis of the grievances received relative to medical, mental health, dental, and medications. The County Health Department (CHD) and Behavioral Wellness (BWell) conduct quarterly audits of Wellpath's performance pursuant to the contract. The results of these audits are presented to your board by CHD on a routine basis. The prior report was presented to your Board on March 3, 2026, with audit findings covering the period of April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, and the next report, covering the period of October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, is anticipated to be provided in September 2026.

CHD and BWell updated the current Service Level Agreements (SLA) audits for the new contract, including the creation of a singular joint audit replacing the two previously independent department audits and expanding to include additional SLAs. The combined audit assesses 19 clinical service areas, such as intake screenings and indicated therapies, withdrawal management, chronic care and mental health management, restrictive housing and safety cell usage, and discharge planning.

This report contains a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and an examination of significant trends and issues. The following key components are discussed in the Wellpath annual report for calendar year 2025 (Attachment A):

- Services Provided – Wellpath reported providing comprehensive medical, mental health, dental, substance use disorder treatment, discharge planning and specialty care coordination within the Santa Barbara County jails. During 2025, Wellpath expanded staffing in several clinical programs, including substance use disorder treatment and mental health services, to support service delivery and program growth.
- Disaster Planning – Wellpath reported out on emergency preparedness drills conducted at the jails, in accordance with accreditation requirements.
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – Wellpath expanded program participation from 726 clients enrolled in 2024 to 1,216 enrolled in 2025, conducted over 2400 counseling sessions and reported a continued decline in overdoses among program participants.
- Annual Statistics – Wellpath reported providing a significant volume of healthcare services during 2025, including nearly 10,000 medical intakes, more than 12,000 combined nursing and provider sick call encounters, nearly 3,000 chronic care visits, more than 2,000 withdrawal management encounters, and over 709,000 medications dispensed. The report

notes that increased medication volume compared to 2024 was due in part to expansion of the MAT program.

- Discharge Planning – Wellpath expanded its discharge planning services in coordination with County partners to ensure that individuals leave incarceration with appointments scheduled with community providers and adequate medications to support their release. During 2025, there were 2,932 visits for chronic care medical conditions. Wellpath has worked closely with the discharge planning team to prioritize discharge planning for those with chronic care conditions. The Sheriff’s Office anticipates significant improvements in coordination of care in 2026 for those with chronic care conditions as discharge planning improvements are made with the implementation of CalAIM in October 2026.
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – In partnership with CHD’s Correctional Health Team, Wellpath continued CQI activities focused on monitoring clinical performance, identifying improvement opportunities, and implementing CAPs.
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) – Wellpath received NCCHC re-accreditation at the Main Jail in 2024. Wellpath applied for NCCHC Accreditation for the Northern Branch Jail in August 2024 and received NCCHC accreditation for the Northern Branch Jail in the beginning of 2026.

Deaths in Custody – Wellpath reported two in-custody deaths within the jails. Both deaths occurred at the Northern Branch Jail. The report summarizes multidisciplinary reviews and resulting quality improvement activities designed to enhance patient safety.

Background:

Your Board authorized an Agreement with Wellpath that began on April 1, 2025. The Agreement requires Wellpath to submit future annual reports within 60 days of the end of the calendar year. Wellpath—originally California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG)—has been the County’s jail healthcare services provider since 2017.

In September 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff’s Office to establish a Grievance Oversight Coordinator position. (Ref. 15-00523) A Community Corrections Input Group was selected from representatives of community interest groups and other interested organizations to provide input and guidance into the medical grievance process. The initial group consisted of representatives from Families ACT, the ACLU, the Mental Health Commission, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a general community representative, and a formerly incarcerated representative. The Committee has met on the first Thursday of each month from November 2015 to present.

As the role of the Community Corrections Input Group expanded, the name of the Community Corrections Input Group was changed to the Community Corrections Grievance Oversight Committee.

Over time, the Grievance Oversight Committee has facilitated positive change within the jail system and has provided input into, and assisted with the development of, several process changes, including:

- The Committee participated in the development of a multi-copy sick call request form that includes an inmate copy, improving documentation, accountability, and the ability for incarcerated individuals to track their medical requests.
- Revisions were made to the Intake Medical Questionnaire to provide a more thorough review process during medical screening.
- Revisions were made to the Grievance Form to include a HIPAA medical release, addressing HIPAA-related concerns raised by jail medical staff. This has resulted in more thorough

grievance responses and improved access to information when investigating medical-related complaints.

- A HIPAA release provision was implemented, enabling the Oversight Coordinator to share grievance findings with a designated individual authorized by the incarcerated person, thereby improving transparency and communication with approved parties.

Performance Measure:

In 2025, Wellpath performed Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) studies between both jail facilities. These studies identify specific policies or requirements that Wellpath is expected to adhere to and involve a detailed review of patient health records to determine whether appropriate care and interventions were provided. Wellpath reports on CQI studies to the Medical Administration Committee (MAC) monthly. The MAC consists of representatives from Wellpath, the Sheriff’s Office, CHD, and BWell. Similar to CHD and BWell monitoring, when areas requiring improvement are noted in a CQI study performed by Wellpath, Wellpath develops a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and presents the CAP to the MAC for approval. The Sheriff’s Office, CHD, and BWell have worked in collaboration with Wellpath to create a more effective MAC process focusing more on identifying areas of non-compliance, correcting deficiencies and monitoring performance in subsequent months, with the goals of increasing performance and patient care.

The below table shows the medical grievances received from incarcerated persons to the Sheriff’s Office for calendar years 2020 through 2025 by category. The increase in grievances submitted from 2021 to 2022 was due to changes made in the grievance process regarding training for Custody Supervisors related to proper routing of grievances, and improved tracking of grievances in the Jail Management System (JMS).

SBSO Medical Inmate Grievance Summary 2020 through 2025						
Category	Year					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dental	7	12	54	27	25	28
Mental Health	21	23	39	38	38	31
Medication	67	66	108	119	113	66
Medical	160	109	358	275	300	339
HIPAA Not Signed	8	12	25	15	7	0
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)*	N/A			69	95	84
Total Medical/MH Related	263	222	584	543	578	548
Total Grievances (medical and non-medical)	1,292	931	1,692	1,646	1,564	1,443
Average Daily Population (Main Jail & NBJ)	673	638	768	759	746	776

*Category added in 2023

Contract Renewals:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facility impacts associated with the acceptance and filing of this report. The total cost of the current Wellpath contract for the jail facilities over two years totals \$49,768,838. The first year, April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026, totals \$22,809,495 and the second year, April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, totals \$24,250,422.

In accordance with the contract requirements, staffing credits for unfilled shift hours at the jail facilities have been applied against Wellpath’s monthly invoice. For 2025, those amounts were:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Staffing Credits</u>
<u>January 2025</u>	<u>\$78,791</u>
<u>February 2025</u>	<u>\$67,096</u>
<u>March 2025</u>	<u>\$67,880</u>
<u>April 2025</u>	<u>\$301,405</u>
<u>May 2025</u>	<u>\$253,888</u>
<u>June 2025</u>	<u>\$165,656</u>
<u>July 2025</u>	<u>\$185,257</u>
<u>August 2025</u>	<u>\$193,149</u>
<u>September 2025</u>	<u>\$153,608</u>
<u>October 2025</u>	<u>\$108,564</u>
<u>November 2025</u>	<u>\$134,826</u>
<u>December 2025</u>	<u>\$144,467</u>
<u>Total 2025</u>	<u>\$1,854,587</u>

Staffing Impacts:

There is no staffing impact associated with this report. As of May 2026, Wellpath had approximately 82.80 FTE positions filled out of the authorized 88.80 positions for the jails, for an approximate vacancy rate of 6.75%. The Sheriff’s Office has a contract with Incite Consulting Services to provide data and tacking information for all grievances submitted by the incarcerated population. The data is provided on a monthly and annual basis.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2025 Annual Report of Wellpath/CFMG Medical, Dental, & Mental Health Services

Attachment B – Sheriff's Office Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2025 Annual Report

Contact Information:

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