



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: Probation
Department No.: 022
For Agenda Of: August 29, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director
Contact Info: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer, (805) 803-8537
Samuel Leach, Deputy Chief Probation Officer,
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SUBJECT: **Wellpath and Department of Behavioral Wellness Annual Report for Healthcare and Mental Health Services at Juvenile Facilities**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the annual report regarding the Agreement for Medical Services with Wellpath and delivery of clinical treatment by Department of Behavioral Wellness (DBW) for youth detained in juvenile facilities; and
- b) Determine that the recommended action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended action is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Probation Department operates two juvenile facilities: the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC). Wellpath has been contracted by the County to provide medical services at the JJC and LPBC, and to coordinate off-site medical treatment and dental services for detained

youth as required by Title 15 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, State of California. Clinical treatment services are provided by the DBW's Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services. As requested by the Board, the detailed annual reports from Wellpath and DBW contain a comprehensive review of service statistics, program reports, and examination of significant trends and issues. This annual report is required in Section 15.11 of the Agreement for Services between the County and Wellpath.

Background:

Youth in custody continue to have timely access to quality medical care, and are able to request medical care via call slips collected and triaged by Wellpath nursing staff at least twice a day at both JJC and LPBC. The Wellpath Annual Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities Report 2022 (Attachment A) is based on data from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and states that Wellpath on-site nursing staff completed 5,796 encounters combined at both facilities. Nursing encounters are comprised of sick visits, segregation checks, immunization administration and laboratory services. In addition to nursing encounters, the pediatrician completed a total of 694 clinic visits. This includes a combined 130 Comprehensive Well Child visits, 418 sick visits, and 109 chronic care visits. The most common chronic visits by the pediatrician are related to asthma, obesity, and acne. Psychosocial issues continue to be the biggest health issue facing detained youth, including sexually transmitted infections, substance use disorders, and mental health issues including impacts of childhood trauma. Dental issues are also prevalent, and dental services are provided by specialists offsite with 116 total dental care visits provided in 2022.

The DBW has continued to provide clinical treatment services to youth in both facilities, including post-custody outreach, engagement support, and linkage services through the Transitions Team. Treatment services utilizing evidence-based principles and best practices include clinical assessment treatment planning, individual and group psychotherapy, family counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation and medication monitoring, case management, and cognitive behavioral treatment intervention delivery (Moral Reconciliation Therapy and Interactive Journaling). Additionally, DBW staff have provided professional training to JJC and LPBC facility staff in mental health topics such as trauma-informed approaches to managing youth in a custodial setting and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). The DBW Annual Report 2022-23 (Attachment C) is based on data from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. During this past fiscal year, DBW provided 52 psychiatric visits, 276 safety checks, 1,928 hours of individual therapy for a total of 1,316 therapy sessions, and 38 family therapy sessions totaling 43 hours. The total number of families and youth may be duplicated based on multiple reentries to facilities for the same youth.

The Probation Department currently meets all Title 15 regulatory standards and is accredited through October 30, 2023, for the purposes of ensuring exemplary services by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This accreditation represents the highest level of care in correctional facilities for youth. Through collaboration with Wellpath and DBW, the Probation Department is able to provide and meet the highest standards involving medical and related care for youth while in a custodial setting. In coordination with NCCHC, the re-accreditation process is being scheduled for later this calendar year.

In collaboration with the Facility Medical Director and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department's (PHD) Health Officer, Probation continues to maintain comprehensive COVID-19 management and action plans using the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

Performance Measure:

PHD conducts quarterly audits of Wellpath’s contract Service Level Agreements (SLAs). A review of the audits for quarters one through four, for time period April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 (Wellpath Annual Report Y6 SLA (Attachment B), all showed the overall SLA performance objectives exceeding the 90% minimum standards. There was one area in which the objective did not meet the 90% threshold: youth receiving immunization within two weeks of their booking date; this was because youth declined/refused vaccination or their parent/guardian declined to consent for vaccination. All other objectives were 100%, exceeding the 90% minimum standard threshold.

DBW has continued to provide monthly data reports for services provided at both JJC and LPBC. They have continued to significantly increase the volume of psychiatric visits and individual therapy services. Clinicians at DBW have also consistently attended Child and Family Team meetings, participated in reentry planning, and created therapeutic reintegration plans. An area for possible improvement would be to increase the facilitation of family services. The quantity and hours spent facilitating family therapy sessions was one of the only measures reported by DBW that did not increase from the previous year.

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no fiscal impact from receiving and filing the report. The Probation Department’s Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget includes funding for the Wellpath contract in the amount of \$1,473,431, and funding for DBW in the amount of \$1,126,800. The County’s Wellpath contract with both the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office (SBSO) and Probation is in the process of being renewed as the former contract expired on March 31, 2023. Services are still being provided and it is anticipated that the contract renewal will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in September 2023. Approval of the recommended actions do not change the General Fund Contribution to the Probation Department.

Santa Barbara County Seventh Year Summary of Wellpath Budget for Probation	
Healthcare Services	1,410,729
Pharmacy Costs	60,407
EMR Fees	2,295
Total Healthcare Services	\$ 1,473,431

Department of Behavioral Wellness (DBW) Budget for Probation	
Direct Labor	833,700
Indirect Administration Overhead 13.00%	148,600
Other Charges	144,500
Total	\$ 1,126,800

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Wellpath Annual Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities Report 2022
- Attachment B: Wellpath Annual Report Y6 SLA
- Attachment C: Department of Behavioral Wellness Annual Report 2022-23

Authored by:

Samuel Leach, Deputy Chief Probation Officer