



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: March 1, 2022
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 20 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Suzanne Grimesey, PIO/Chief of Strategy & Community
Engagement, Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Behavioral Health Community Assessment Update

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 a report regarding the behavioral health community assessment and services prioritized from the community assessment process;
- B. Provide other direction as appropriate; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities and organizational or administrative activities of the government, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and therefore is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The County of Santa Barbara is receiving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to address COVID-19-related costs, economic impacts, lost revenues, and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure needs. The Board of Supervisors approved a first ARPA tranche allocation totaling \$1.5 million for a behavioral health community impact assessment and services as a result of that survey. Behavioral Wellness (BWell) has completed the community assessment and developed a project plan including community engagement and outreach strategies for a period of three years. The focus of today's discussion is to receive a presentation describing results of the community assessment and proposed next steps. Staff is recommending the Board receive and file the presentation and provide other direction as appropriate.

Background:

On June 1, 2021, the Board of Supervisors supported the allowance of federal ARPA funding of \$1.5 million in mental health services for a 3-year period (\$500,000 for FY 21-22) to support community recovery from the behavioral health impact of the pandemic.

Data at the federal, state, and local levels indicate heightened instances of substance use and abuse resulting from financial, social, and other impacts of COVID-19. Moreover, suicide and opioid overdose rates as well as initial calls to community helplines nationwide have increased. The purpose of the funding was to conduct evaluations of mental health and substance abuse needs across the community and develop a three-year intervention plan to address issues identified in the assessment.

The County's Behavioral Wellness Department has undertaken a broad assessment of the community to determine impacts and needs. Behavioral Wellness, together with community mental health and wellness partners and stakeholders, developed a validated rapid assessment survey instrument and worked with the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) on data and reporting to ensure compliance with reporting requirements as well as fidelity in programs and services developed. Funding was used to hire a Project Manager and conduct field-based outreach and distribution of the survey in Spanish and Mixteco languages through the Promotores Network.

Over 5,000 community members responded to this survey. Additionally, several focus groups took place throughout the County, including groups with targeted underserved populations and geographical areas. A summary of the results of the community assessment process will be shared with the Board of Supervisors.

Now that the community assessment process is complete, community behavioral health stakeholders will convene to develop appropriate evidence-based intervention strategies to respond to the needs identified as a result of the assessment, with the objective of increasing awareness and linkage to services, recognizing signs of self-harm, expanding services with community partnerships and grants, and enhancing services to individuals.

Behavioral Wellness has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify providers to begin implementing planned services. Awarding of contracts and vendor procurement is anticipated in early spring 2022 as a result of the RFP. Services will be designed with the intention to help guide anyone who needs mental health support and substance use treatment to know where to find assistance and how to access support. Focus will include recognizing the signs of emotional distress, mental illness, and risk of self-harm. Attention will be placed on the vulnerability of recently unemployed people, young people, those in financial stress, the elderly, and other populations historically underserved and marginalized.

Performance Measures:

The County is required to submit quarterly and annual Project and Expenditure Reports and an annual Recovery Plan Performance Report. Behavioral Wellness will ensure all required data for reporting are provided.

Initial Recovery Plan Performance Reporting measures for the annual report include:

Performance Measures	
Output Measures	Outcome Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people surveyed on mental health needs through initial community assessment process • Number of people surveyed in English, Spanish, and Mixteco • Number of people surveyed in geographically targeted areas • Focus groups conducted in geographically targeted areas and languages • Number of new services provided as a result of partnerships and grant/private funding • Number of Community Partnership Steering Committee meetings throughout the year (assuring regular collaboration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people reporting they know where to turn for help • Number of people who report knowing how to access services and supports • Number of people who report using mental health services • Number of people who, after reporting a clinical measurement of anxiety or depression at the time of taking the survey, are taught skills on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and acknowledge the risks of self-harm • Number of people reporting improved mental health after receiving services • Number of people who report feeling more connected to their community

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

A Request for Proposals from interested community providers, based on the results of the mental health assessment, is in process. Awarding of contracts and vendor procurement is anticipated in early spring 2022 as a result of the RFP. Behavioral Wellness will return to the Board of Supervisors for approval of vendor contracts based on procurement standards.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost:</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$500,000.00		\$1,500,000.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00

Narrative: The project is funded by restricted federal ARPA sources, which were approved on June 1, 2021 by the Board of Supervisors. The budget allocation is \$1.5 million which anticipates yearly expenditures of \$500,000 for a period of three years starting July 1, 2021. The community assessment will inform program design specific to the ARPA funding in addition to informing the larger system of care for recovery efforts.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) copy of the Minute Order to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org and to bethle@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: ARPA 2021 Behavioral Health Community Assessment Update – Presentation

Attachment B: Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Community Impact Survey Evaluation Summary

Authored by:

S. Grimmesey, L. Walter, T. Navarro, B. Le

cc:

T. Maus-Nisich