



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: June 28, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Christina Lombard, LMFT, Mental Health Student Services Act
(MHSSA) Program Manager
Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220
**SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness - Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant -
Memorandums of Understanding with Santa Barbara County Education Office
(SBCEO) and Santa Barbara County School Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness, or designee, to execute Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) and various Santa Barbara County school districts in form and content substantially similar to the attached template (Attachment A), for mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs, through September 30, 2025;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to make immaterial changes to the MOUs without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the MOUs, 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:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness requests approval of the recommended actions to execute Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) and various Santa Barbara County school districts, for mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs. The MOUs will allow the County to accomplish programmatic requirements of the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082) with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness and SBCEO to partner with local school districts in pursuit of enhancing school-based mental health awareness, expanding access to mental health services for children and youth, and facilitate linkages to ongoing and sustained services.

Background:

On September 15, 2020, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to execute the MHSSA multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082) with MHSOAC for mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs, in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2024. On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Behavioral Wellness to execute the first amendment to the grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082 A1) to extend the grant period through September 30, 2025, and to reallocate funds among grant years as necessary, with no change to the total amount of \$4,000,000.

These grant funds have helped support a partnership between BWell and SBCEO to expand access to mental health services for children and youth and allow SBCEO's Health Advocates/Navigators to provide direct linkages to students along with Behavioral Health Clinicians. On July 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisors executed an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with SBCEO as a subcontractor under the MHSSA grant award with the MHSOAC in the amount of \$465,413 over a one-year period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. On December 7, 2021, the Board of Supervisors renewed the Agreement with SBCEO in the amount of \$462,788 over a one-year period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

BWell wishes to establish a partnership with local school districts that is co-facilitated by BWell and SBCEO, through which all three parties are able to collaborate to provide Behavioral Wellness services and community resources, as needed, to students and their families. The purpose of the MOUs is to identify the roles and responsibilities of each party in the collaborative partnership.

BWell's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Become familiar with school administrators, teachers, and support staff;
- Conduct mental health assessments to determine appropriate level of care;
- Support students' re-entry post crisis intervention;
- Coordinate referrals and "warm hand-offs" to appropriate providers within the system;
- Support and assist SBCEO's Navigators with duties and accessing necessary services;
- Coordinate educational trainings for school staff, including training in mental health first aid; and
- Complete an annual assessment as required by the MHSOAC.

SBCEO will coordinate, hire, and supervise Health Advocates/Navigators that provide services to students daily during school hours, including coverage during the summer months as agreed to by each school district. The Navigators' responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Serve as the main point of contact for school personnel and families when a student has been identified as needing mental health and substance use resources beyond school capacity;
- Collaborate with administrators and other school staff to secure resources necessary to achieve positive academic outcomes for students at-risk of school failure or dropping out;
- Collaborate with Behavioral Wellness staff to make initial contacts with resources;
- Provide students and their families with linkages to mental health and substance use services and support on-campus and virtually;
- Follow up with internal and external referrals to ensure students and families have successfully connected with services, and monitor progress until family reports satisfaction with services; and
- Communicate MHSSA program components and how to access services to students, parents and/or caregivers, administrators, school personnel and staff, community members and stakeholders.

The School Districts' responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Each participating school will complete the Needs Assessment Survey provided by County annually;
- School staff will provide referrals to the Behavioral Wellness Clinicians or Program Manager, or SBCEO Health Advocates/Navigators which contain all required demographic information;
- School staff will collaborate with SBCEO and Behavioral Wellness Clinicians to remain aware of client's status in the continuum of care, including which services client was referred to;
- School administrators and other school staff will collaborate with SBCEO Health Advocates/Navigators to secure resources necessary to achieve positive academic outcomes for students at-risk of school failure or dropping out; and
- School staff will attend monthly meetings with SBCEO Health Advocates/Navigators, Behavioral Wellness Clinicians and/or Project Manager, to discuss needs and areas for support.

Performance Measure:

BWell, SBCEO, and school districts will partner to provide mental health services that address the following goals of the MHSSA multi-year grant agreement between the County and the MHSOAC (No. 19MHSOAC082):

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.

Each participating school within the participating school districts will assemble an identifiable team to complete annually the Needs Assessment Survey provided by County. This team will consist of 5 to 6 members, including but not limited to: Principal, Vice Principal, Dean, School Psychologist, Nurse, School Counselor, a teacher, and a parent. The Needs Assessment Survey will be administered through SurveyMonkey and provide data and feedback regarding the above performance measures.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None.

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: These Memorandums of Understanding do not involve any payment or transfer of funds.

Key Contract Risks:

As no funds are provided to any party through these Memorandums of Understanding, there are no financial risks resulting directly from these MOUs. However, should Behavioral Wellness, SBCEO, or a School District fail to adhere to the roles and responsibilities outlined in the MOUs, the collaborative partnership's ability to effectively provide services to children and youth may suffer. The County's MHSSA grant agreement with the MHSOAC requires the County to submit quarterly reports containing evaluation data demonstrating program effectiveness throughout the grant cycle. The MHSOAC may withhold funds from the County if the County fails to meet requirements. If the County finds itself in this position, the County will immediately contact the MHSOAC and provide a mitigation plan to address the contractual program deficiency.

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

Attachment A: MOU with SBCEO and School District – Template

Authored By:

B. Le