



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: February 15, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Chris Ribeiro, CFO
Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project
Supplemental Funding to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block
Grant and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

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 accept supplemental Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funding awarded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP) in the total amount of \$2,517,171.95 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;
- B. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness, or designee, to accept supplemental Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) funding awarded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP), in the total amount of \$1,251,949 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;
- C. Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0007909 for FY 21-22 to (1) increase appropriations of \$51,900 in the Mental Health Services Fund for Salaries and Employee Benefits and \$395,600 in the Mental Health Services Act Fund for Salaries and Employee Benefits (\$343,500) and Services and Supplies (\$52,100) funded by unanticipated revenue from Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and (2) increase appropriations of \$1,150,300 in the Alcohol and Drug Programs Fund for Salaries and Employee Benefits (\$406,300) and Services and Supplies (\$744,000) funded

by unanticipated revenue from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (Attachment C); and

- D. 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 potential physical impacts on the environment, and therefore is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

Acceptance of the supplemental SABG and MHBG funding and approval of the Budget Revision will enable the expansion of mental health services and substance use disorder services in Santa Barbara County. This service expansion will be funded by supplements to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) made available through the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Supplemental funding through the CRRSAA and ARPA, which are being administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), will be available through December 31, 2022 and June 30, 2025, respectively. Prior to the expiration of this funding, the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) will identify new possible funding streams to sustain the delivery of these services.

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified behavioral health needs across the state, creating new barriers for people with mental illness and substance use disorders and increasing the prevalence of these conditions. In response, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is implementing the Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP) to increase access to behavioral health care for all Californians. Through BHRRP, DHCS will assist communities in need by expanding the behavioral health workforce, supporting mobile crisis services, and funding many other projects.

BHRRP is funded by supplements to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding was made available to SAMHSA through passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

DHCS has approved Santa Barbara County's BHRRP applications for SABG and MHBG, and the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) will receive \$3,769,120.95 in supplemental funding from SABG and MHBG through the end of FY 2024-25. Supplemental funding through CRRSAA is available for the County's use from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, and supplemental funding through ARPA is available for the County's use from September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

Acceptance of these funds is conditioned on compliance with the State Performance Agreement (#21-10112) for FY 21-24, which sets forth conditions and requirements the County must meet in order to receive funding for several State-administered acts, grants, and programs, including the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG). The Board of Supervisors approved, ratified, and authorized the Director of BWell to execute the Performance Agreement on August 17, 2021.

Additionally, the County must adhere to reporting and fiscal requirements for the supplemental SABG and supplemental MHBG funding. Funds awarded through CRRSAA and ARPA must be tracked

separately from one another and separately from the prime SABG and MHBG awards, per federal requirements. These funds are also subject to all applicable requirements that govern federal monies associated with MHBG and SABG set forth in United States Code (USC) Title 42 Part B, and the Uniform Guidance 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, as codified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 45 CFR Part 75. Acceptance of the SABG funds is conditioned on the County's agreement to the terms and conditions of the SABG Supplemental Enclosure X (Attachment D), and the SABG County Application's associated instructions, enclosures, and attachments. Acceptance of the MHBG funds is conditioned on the County's agreement to the terms and conditions of the MHBG Supplemental Enclosure X (Attachment E), and the MHBG County Application's associated instructions, enclosures, and attachments.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG)

DHCS provides SABG funding to local governments to provide substance use disorder services directly or by contracting with local providers. On December 14, 2021, DHCS notified BWell via letter that Santa Barbara County's SABG applications for CRRSAA and ARPA had been approved (Attachment A). BWell will receive a total of \$2,517,171.95 in supplemental SABG funding through the end of FY 2024-25, inclusive of \$1,342,610.67 in CRRSAA funding (available for the County's use from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022), and \$1,174,561.28 in ARPA funding (available for the County's use from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025). This supplemental funding will expand the delivery of substance use disorder treatment and prevention services by community-based organizations and BWell's capacity to oversee service delivery and manage attendant administrative functions.

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)

DHCS distributes MHBG funding to participating county mental health departments to provide comprehensive community mental health services to adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances. On January 14, 2022, DHCS notified BWell via letter that Santa Barbara County's MHBG applications for CRRSAA and ARPA had been approved (Attachment B). BWell will receive a total of \$1,251,949 in supplemental MHBG funding through the end of FY 2024-25, inclusive of \$432,956 in CRRSAA funding (available for the County's use from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022), and \$818,993 in ARPA funding (available for the County's use from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025). This supplemental funding will enhance BWell's capacity to deliver services to transitional-aged youth presenting with first episode psychosis and adults with severe mental illness.

Uses of Supplemental Funding and Addition of Nine Legal Positions

This supplemental funding will enable BWell to enhance the delivery of substance use disorder and mental health services throughout Santa Barbara County. Additionally, its availability over the span of four fiscal years will enable BWell to identify funding strategies to sustain this enhanced level of service before the supplemental funding ends, which may include recovering eligible program costs through reimbursement, such as through Medi-Cal. Certain services, such as the substance use disorder services, will be sustained by existing funding including SABG, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, and CalWORKs.

On November 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 21-207, effective November 15, 2021, to add nine legal positions (9.0 FTE) to BWell, inclusive of:

1. Two full-time (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS);
2. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Administrative Office Professional (AOP) for Alcohol and Drug Programs;
3. Three full-time (3.0 FTE) Peer Recovery Assistants;

4. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Case Worker for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT);
5. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Psychologist for long-term care team; and
6. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Practitioner for First Episode Psychosis (FEP).

These positions will remain unfilled until the Board of Supervisors accepts the grant funding. BWell will use the supplemental funding to offset the costs of salaries and employee benefits associated with these nine positions. Following the end of the grant terms in FY 2024-25, the costs of the ADP positions can be sustained by existing funding streams. BWell will identify new funding sources to sustain the costs of the remaining positions.

Additionally, BWell will use the supplemental funding to contract with local providers to deliver services countywide. BWell will request approval for these contracts at a later date.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>			<u>FY 22-23 through FY 24-25</u>
	<u>FY 21-22</u>		
General Fund			
Federal (SABG - ARPA & CRSSA)	\$	1,150,412.95	\$ 1,366,759.00
Federal (MHBG - ARPA & CRSSA)	\$	447,500.00	\$ 804,449.00
Fees			
Total:	\$	1,597,912.95	\$ 2,171,208.00
Grand Total:			\$ 3,769,120.95

DHCS will award supplemental funding totaling \$3,769,120.95 from the (1) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) in the amount of \$2,517,171.95 and (2) Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) in the amount of \$1,251,949. This supplemental funding will be used to offset the costs of salaries and employee benefits for the above-mentioned 9.0 FTE legal positions and services and supplies. For FY 2021-22, BWell requests Board approval to increase appropriations by \$801,700 for salaries and employee benefits and by \$796,100 for services and supplies, for a total of \$1,597,800, which will be funded by the supplemental SABG and MHBG funding.

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

- Attachment A: DHCS Approval Letter – BHRRP Supplemental County Application for SABG
- Attachment B: DHCS Approval Letter – BHRRP Supplemental County Application for MHBG
- Attachment C: Budget Journal Entry No. 0007909
- Attachment D: SABG Supplemental Enclosure X
- Attachment E: MHBG Supplemental Enclosure X

Authored by:

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