



**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 25, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
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: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220

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SUBJECT: Renewal Mental Health Staffing Services Agreements with DocStar Medical Partners LLC for FY 24–25, Locumtenens.com LLC for FY 24–25, Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc. for FY 24–26, and Barton Medical, Inc. for FY 24–25

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Management Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **DocStar Medical Partners LLC** (“DocStar”) (not a local vendor) for the provision of locum tenens psychiatry, nursing, and physician assistant temporary staffing services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$500,000** for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **LocumTenens.com LLC** (“Locumtenens.com”) (not a local vendor) for the provision of locum tenens psychiatry temporary staffing services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$1,700,000** for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a multi-year Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc.** (“Sterling Care”) (not a local vendor) for the provision of locum tenens psychiatry and nursing temporary staffing services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$3,000,000**, inclusive of \$1,500,000 per fiscal year, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026;
- d) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

with **Barton Medical, Inc.** (“Barton”) (not a local vendor) for the provision of locum tenens psychiatry, nursing, and physician assistant temporary staffing services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, for a total contract maximum amount not to exceed **\$1,200,000** for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025;

- e) Regarding the above Agreements at Recommended Actions a) through d), delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreements for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreements and make immaterial changes to the Agreements per Section 26, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board’s approval of an amendment of the Agreements, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time;
- f) Regarding the above Barton Agreement, delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to make immaterial changes and add positions and/or approve rate changes not to exceed 10% of the rate currently stated in the respective Exhibit B-1 per Section 25 of the Agreement, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board’s approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- g) 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 above referenced items are on the agenda to request approval for authorization to renew the following contracts:

- a) **DocStar Medical Partners LLC** for a total contract maximum not to exceed \$500,000 for FY 2024-25;
- b) **LocumTenens.com LLC** for a total contract maximum not to exceed \$1,700,000 for FY 2024-25;
- c) **Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc.** for a total contract maximum not to exceed \$3,000,000 for FY 2024-26; and
- d) **Barton Medical, Inc.** for a total contract maximum not to exceed \$1,200,000 for FY 2024-25.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to task each of the above-mentioned entities with providing professionals who can provide mandated and greatly needed psychiatry, nursing, and physician assistant services within the system of care.

Background:

Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, including psychiatric and nursing services at its County facilities. Across the nation there is an ongoing shortage of psychiatric and nursing services. BWell has experienced ongoing challenges that mirrors the national challenges of attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists, nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants to work at BWell facilities. BWell currently uses locum tenens temporary physicians to fill ongoing needs for psychiatric staff at inpatient and outpatient facilities. Locum tenens provide mandated psychiatric services such as diagnostic evaluations, medication

evaluations, prescriptions for psychiatric medications, the review, revision, and approval of client assessments, and participation in the development, review, revision, and approval of client treatment plans.

It is in the best interests of the County to renew the below agreements at the new terms as set out in Recommended Actions a) through h). The most recent agreement with each of these contractors is as follows:

- a) **DocStar** has an existing agreement for FY 2021-24 with a total contract maximum of \$1,186,000; to provide locum tenens psychiatry, nursing, and physician assistant temporary staffing services;
- b) **Locumtenens.com** has an existing agreement for FY 2022-24 with a total contract maximum of \$3,150,000; to provide locum tenens psychiatry temporary staffing services;
- c) **Sterling Care** has an existing agreement for FY 2022-24 with a total contract maximum of \$3,400,000; to provide locum tenens psychiatry and nursing temporary staffing services; and
- d) **Barton** has an existing agreement for FY 2022-24 with a total contract maximum of \$3,600,000; to provide locum tenens psychiatry, nursing, and physician assistant temporary staffing services.

Performance Outcomes:

BWell is currently utilizing professionals provided by the above entities. These locum tenens professionals and nursing professionals are providing services throughout the County at Behavioral Wellness clinics and other Behavioral Wellness programs. The staffing professionals are all performing on par with the County's civil service providers. They provide services according to generally accepted practices, participate in medical staff meetings, are part of medical staff meeting peer review, and respond appropriately to communications and clinical feedback.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 24-26 TOTAL
General Fund			
State	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 3,200,000
Federal	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 3,200,000
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 4,900,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 6,400,000

Narrative: These contracts will be funded through a combination of Federal and State dollars. The FY 24-25 amounts are included in our recommended budget and contingent upon Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing temporary staffing services, there is a risk that temporary personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in the performance of assigned duties. BWell may

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cancel an assignment for cause or convenience, and the contractor provides professional liability insurance for the professionals to mitigate these risks. In addition, the County pays only the contractor's fees when the County utilizes a healthcare professional referred by the contractor. There are no monthly fees attached to the Agreements.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) copy of each executed Agreement to Michael Purvis at mpurvis@sbcbswell.org and to the BWell Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: DocStar FY 24-25 BC

Attachment B: LocumTenens.com FY 24-25 BC

Attachment C: Sterling Care Psychiatric Group FY 24-26 BC

Attachment D: Barton FY 24-25 BC

Authored by:

Michael Purvis