



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
Agenda Date: May 6, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner
Contact Info: Cassandra Marking, Custody Lieutenant, (805) 681-4091
SUBJECT: California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) 2024 Annual Report for Healthcare Services at Sheriff's Jail Facilities

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the 2024 annual report (Attachment A) prepared by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) regarding the Healthcare Services within Sheriff's Office jail facilities; and
- b) Determine that the approval of 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 which does not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive a detailed annual report from CFMG, pursuant to the Agreement, containing a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and examination of significant trends and issues.

Background:

On February 28, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the Sheriff and the Probation Department Agreement with CFMG for healthcare services (medical and mental health services) at the jail and for medical services only for Probation's juvenile facilities. On April 1, 2017, CFMG officially began providing services for the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. In October 2018, CFMG joined with Correct Care Solutions (CCS), CFMG's parent company, Correctional Medical Group Companies (CMGC) and became Wellpath, with the contract entity remaining CFMG.

Your Board authorized a new Agreement with CFMG which began on April 1, 2025. Pursuant to the previous Agreement (which expired March 31, 2025), CFMG submitted this 2024 annual report to the Sheriff's Office within 90 days of the end of the calendar year. The Agreement approved by your Board on April 1, 2025 requires CFMG to submit future annual reports within 60 days of the end of the calendar year. Due to previous Board items related to the County Health Department (CHD) monitoring and oversight, the Request for Proposals for Healthcare Services and the recent Agreement with CFMG, this item is being presented as an Administrative item with the plan to provide future reports to your Board as Departmental items to coincide with CHD's monitoring updates.

This report contains a comprehensive review of the monthly statistical and program reports and an examination of significant trends and issues. The following key components are discussed in the CFMG annual report for calendar year 2024 (Attachment A):

- Services Provided – CFMG presents a list of the services provided to the incarcerated people within Santa Barbara County jails.
- Disaster Planning – CFMG reported out on emergency preparedness drills conducted at the jails, in accordance with accreditation requirements.
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – CFMG expanded program participation from 283 clients enrolled in 2023 to 786 enrolled in 2024.
- Annual Statistics – CFMG presents a snapshot of the amount of services (sick call visits, medications administered, etc.) provided in 2024.
- Competency Restoration Services – CFMG, in partnership with California Health and Recovery Solutions, provides a summary of the number of individuals enrolled in competency restoration services, including the number of individuals successfully restored within 2024.
- Discharge Planning – CFMG expanded its discharge planning services in coordination with County partners to ensure that individuals leave incarceration with appointments scheduled with community providers and adequate medications to support their release. During 2024, there were 3,323 visits for chronic care medical conditions. CFMG has worked closely with the discharge planning team to prioritize discharge planning for those with chronic care conditions. The Sheriff's Office anticipates significant improvements in coordination of care in 2025 for those with chronic care conditions as discharge planning improvements are made in anticipation of CalAIM implementation.
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – In partnership with CHD's Correctional Health Team, CFMG improved the structure, accountability and reporting in the regular CQI meetings.

- National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) - CFMG received NCCHC accreditation at the Main Jail in 2020 and recently received provisional re-accreditation in February 2024, with full re-accreditation received in June 2024. CFMG applied for NCCHC Accreditation for the Northern Branch Jail in August 2024 and is currently awaiting a survey date for this accreditation inspection, but have had multiple meetings with the accreditation staff to prepare for the forthcoming audit of the Northern Branch Jail.
- Deaths in Custody – CFMG reported one in custody death within the jails. This death occurred by suicide in November 2024 within the Main Jail.

Performance Measure:

CHD recently assumed more responsibility in monitoring and advising on the quality of care delivered by CFMG in the jails. To that end, on March 11, 2025, CHD presented an update on jail health monitoring of the CFMG Agreement, which would have previously been discussed within today's Annual Report update.

In 2024, CFMG performed Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) studies between both jail facilities. These studies identify specific policies or requirements that CFMG is expected to adhere to and involve a detailed review of patient health records to determine whether appropriate care and interventions were provided. CFMG reports on CQI studies to the Medical Administration Committee (MAC) monthly. The MAC consists of representatives from CFMG, the Sheriff's Office, CHD and BWell. Similar to County CHD and BWell monitoring, when a deficiency is noted in a CQI study performed by CFMG, CFMG develops a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and presents the CAP to the MAC for approval. The Sheriff's Office, CHD and BWell have worked in collaboration with CFMG to create a more effective MAC process focuses more on identifying areas of non-compliance, correcting deficiencies and monitoring performance in subsequent months, with the goals of increasing performance and patient care.

The Sheriff's Office is also presenting the Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2024 Annual Report for your Board's consideration. Attachment B contains the Sheriff's Office's Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2024 Annual Report, which provides a synopsis of the grievances received relative to medical, mental health, dental and medications. The below table shows the medical grievances received from incarcerated persons to the Sheriff's Office for calendar years 2020 through 2024 by category.

SBSO Medical Inmate Grievance Summary 2020 through 2024					
Category	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental	7	12	54	27	25
Mental Health	21	23	39	38	38
Medication	67	66	108	119	113
Medical	160	109	358	275	300
HIPAA Not Signed	8	12	25	15	7
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)*	N/A			69	95
Total Medical/MH Related	263	222	584	543	578
Total Grievances (medical and non-medical)	1,292	931	1,692	1,646	1,564
Average Daily Population (Main Jail & NBJ)	673	638	768	759	746
*Category added in 2023					

As noted in previous Board presentations, the MAT program experienced a significant expansion during 2024, which served less than 100 individuals at a given time in early 2024, to over 200 enrolled

by the end of the year. During the expansion of the program in 2023 and 2024, there were several grievances submitted related to incarcerated person's desire to be enrolled in the program. As a result of this, the Sheriff's Office began tracking grievances related to MAT separately to track the demand.

Contract Renewals:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facility impacts associated with the acceptance and filing of this report.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this report. As of December 2024, CFMG had approximately 61.20 FTE positions filled out of the authorized 65.45 positions for the jails, for an approximate vacancy rate of 6.5% with one additional FTE (1.5%) off work due to medical leave.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2024 Annual Report of Wellpath (CFMG) Medical, Dental, & Mental Health Services

Attachment B – Grievance Oversight Coordinator's 2024 Annual Report

Authored by:

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