



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: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: June 9, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness
Contact Info: Katie Cohen, Psy.D., LMFT, Assistant Director of Clinical Operations
SUBJECT: Services Agreement with Our Healing Center for Mental Health Services for Fiscal Year 2026–28

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller 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 Our Healing Center (a local vendor) for short-term residential therapeutic program and in-home behavioral services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, inclusive of \$500,000 per fiscal year;
- b) Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to
 - (i) make immaterial changes to the Agreement as provided in Section 25 of the Agreement;
 - (ii) modify the Services per Exhibits A-1; (iii) modify the staffing requirements per Exhibits A-1 and A-2; (iv) amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures as provided in Exhibit A-1 and A-2 of the Agreement; (v) suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience as provided in Exhibit AA; (vi) reallocate funds between funding sources as provided in Section 6.A of Exhibit B of the Agreement; (vii) incorporate new codes and make fee-for-service rate changes to Section 3. B.2 in Exhibit B (if applicable); and (viii) and allow for rate changes to or otherwise update Exhibit B-1 or Exhibit B-3 (if applicable) for County's operational reasons, as well as make rate changes to or otherwise update Exhibit B-3 (if

applicable) for multi-year contracts annually. All actions shall not alter the total maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board of Supervisors' approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board of Supervisors' ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and

- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement for services with Our Healing Center for the provision of short-term residential therapeutic programs and in-home behavioral services to children and youth who are residents of Santa Barbara County. The agreement spans fiscal year 2026-27 through fiscal year 2027-28 and a total cost of \$1,000,000, equating to \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Discussion:

Our Healing Center is a CBO that provides STRTP, Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) coordination and linkage services to clients aged 12 through 21. Program services include assessment and reassessment, collateral, crisis intervention, intensive care coordination, medication support services, plan development, rehabilitation, targeted case management, therapy, intensive home-based services, and therapeutic behavioral services coordination and linkage. Additional services may be authorized by the BWell Director pursuant to the terms of the Agreement. The facility is located in Lompoc (District Three).

BWell requests approval of the recommended actions to allow Our Healing Center to continue delivering mandated short-term residential therapeutic programs and in-home behavioral services to children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance. Serious emotional disturbance refers to a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional condition in a minor (under age 18) that results in a functional impairment, substantially interfering with or limiting their ability to function in family, school, or community activities.

Background:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents in part through contracted providers, including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). CBOs provide various specialty mental health services to adults with serious mental illness, and children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance.

The State Department of Social Service (DSS) implemented Continuum of Care Reform under Assembly Bill 403. This reform draws together a series of existing and new reforms to the child welfare services program designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed nurturing family homes. It provides a statutory and policy framework to ensure that services and supports provided to children or youth and their families are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable, permanent family. In Santa Barbara County, BWell, Child Welfare Services (CWS), and Probation work together as interdisciplinary agencies for determining the need for and recommending the placement of County children and youth in a Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP). STRTPs are a residential facility that provides an integrated program of specialized intensive care and supervision,

services, and support; specialty mental health services; mental health treatment; and short-term, 24-hour care and supervision to children and youth.

The County began contracting with Our Healing Center in November 2023 through a Purchase Order. Due to ongoing need for the service, as well as more youth being placed there than originally anticipated and the service intensity being high, Our Healing Center's contract was renewed in June of 2024 as a board contract.

Performance Measure:

This agreement with Our Healing Center has the following measurable goals and objectives:

- Reduce symptom acuity: Reduce mental health and substance use symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care and emergency rooms
- Stabilization in Community: Assist members in their mental health recovery process by developing the skills necessary to lead healthy and productive lives in the community.

Contract Renewals:

Performance Outcomes:

In FY 2025-26, the program served an average of seven clients per quarter, with an average of one new enrollment and one discharge per quarter. The program performed well across all domains, with strong outcomes related to avoidance of crisis, follow up after a crisis event, and completion of required measures of mental health symptom acuity. Given that STRTP programs serve youth with the highest symptom acuity, their ability to avoid inpatient hospital stays, incarceration and crisis services is particularly meaningful.

- Mental Health Symptom Acuity: The program is currently meeting most target goals related to symptom acuity. Clients successfully avoided crisis services such as inpatient hospitalization, incarceration, and crisis services, and when a client was incarcerated, the program followed up after discharge within a week. The goals related to California Integrated Practice – Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS) and Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) assessment completion have been met. While there were symptom improvements observed in the IP-CANS, the program fell below the symptom reduction goal (29% of domains showed 10% or greater improvement; goal: 50%). It should be noted that the low volume of clients makes performance averages less stable.
- Stabilization in the Community: The measures for stabilization are defined by discharge status. The program's number of discharges was too small (N = 3) to calculate a meaningful success rate.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The above-referenced agreement is funded with a combination of State and federal funds. With the transition to CalAIM Behavioral Health Payment Reform, the fee-for-service portion of the contract will be funded with Medi-Cal Patient Revenue, which primarily consists of federal funds. The amount of federal funds is contingent on the client's aid code and the State-issued rate for the service. The non-Medi-Cal portion of the contract is funded by State Realignment funding. Funding for the agreement was included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget. Future fiscal year funding will be included in the department's requested budget, subject to Board approval. There is no additional cost to the General Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Total
General Fund			
State	\$9,719	\$9,719	\$19,438
Federal	\$490,281	\$490,281	\$980,562
Fees			
[<i>Other Source</i>]			
Total	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to Chris Shorb at cshorb@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Our Healing Center FY 2026-28 BC (signature required)

Contact Information:

Chris Shorb
Contract Analyst
cshorb@sbcbswell.org