



**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 3, 2025
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: Ole Behrendtsen, M.D., Medical Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness

SUBJECT: **Contractor on Payroll Services Agreement Renewals for Fred Berge, M.D., Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D., and John Onssy Anis, M.D. for FY 2025-26**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

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 Contractor on Payroll with **Fred Berge, M.D.** for the provision of psychiatric services for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$154,000**;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Contractor on Payroll with **Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D.** for the provision of medical support services for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$40,000**;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Contractor on Payroll with **John Onssy Anis, M.D.** for the provision of medical support services for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$30,000**; and
- d) 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) and (b)(5), finding that the actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or administrative or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The above-referenced items are on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize the Chair to renew the Agreement for Services of Contractor on Payroll with **Fred Berge, M.D., Muhammad Salman UI Haq, M.D., and John Onssy Anis, M.D.** for the provision of psychiatric and medical support services for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$154,000** for Dr. Berge, M.D., **\$40,000** for Dr. Haq, M.D., and **\$30,000** for Dr. Anis, M.D., for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Background:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP).

BWell has experienced continued difficulty recruiting and retaining individuals who are certified and licensed to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services. Although the County maintains ongoing recruitment for these professionals, it rarely produces enough qualified candidates to meet departmental needs. A COP helps to bridge the gap in mental health treatment capacity.

Fred Berge, M.D. provides as-needed all psychiatric services allowed under the scope of licensure as a licensed physician and surgeon in California, which shall include but are not limited to: (a) perform diagnostic, suicide, Tarasoff, involuntary admission, medication, and other evaluations; (b) prescribe psychiatric medication and treatment; (c) participate in utilization review, medication monitoring, quality improvement protocols, and peer review; and (d) provide psychiatric services to the Calle Real Adult Clinic. BWell has contracted with Dr. Berge, M.D. for psychiatric services since June 2012.

Muhammad Salman UI Haq, M.D. provides back-up Internal Medicine duties and coverage, “on-call” and as-scheduled or as-needed, for the current County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), which shall include but are not limited to: (a) complete medical histories and physicals for PHF patients within twenty-four (24) hours of admittance and providing follow-up medical care; (b) prescribe medication, treatment, and ordering tests; (c) review PHF patients’ clinical records; and (d) remain “on-call” and available to provide evaluations after on-site Internal Medicine duties have concluded for the day unless otherwise agreed with County. BWell has contracted with Dr. Haq, M.D. for medical support services since March 2023.

John Onssy Anis, M.D. provides Internal Medicine duties, “on-call” and as-scheduled, for the current County PHF which shall include: (a) complete medical histories and physicals for PHF patients within twenty-four (24) hours of admittance and providing follow-up medical care; (b) prescribe medication, treatment, and ordering tests; (c) provide telephone consultation or on-site medical evaluations in circumstances in which PHF nursing staff believe that there may be an emergency medical condition for a patient at the PHF, and (d) review PHF patients’ clinical records. BWell has contracted with Dr. Anis, M.D. for medical support services since April 2023.

In June of 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the renewals of the Agreements for the above-mentioned Contractors on Payroll. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to continue providing critical services in the PHF without a gap in services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
Federal (Medi-Cal)	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
State (MHSA)	\$ 189,000	\$ 189,000
General Fund		
Fees		
Other		
Total	\$ 224,000	\$ 224,000

Psychiatrist and Medical Doctor professionals are scarce and the services these experts provide are paramount to our system of care. The Contractors on Payroll ensure that our clinics and hospital are in compliance and that we provide valuable services to our clients. These costs will be funded by billable rates to Medi-Cal for services our doctors provide. Any services that are not covered by Medi-Cal will be funded with Mental Health Services Act monies.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete, executed copy of the above contract and one (1) Minute Order to Svetlana Arriaga at sarriaga@sbcbswell.org, Brandie Cass, Payroll Division Chief at auditorgrouppayrollstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us, to HRClass&Comp@countyofsb.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Fred Berge, M.D. FY 2025-26 Contractor on Payroll

Attachment B – Muhammad Salman Ul Haq, M.D. FY 2025-26 Contractor on Payroll

Attachment C – John Onssy Anis, M.D. FY 2025-26 Contractor on Payroll

Authored by:

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