



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: July 16, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Behavioral Wellness, 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Staffing Contract FY 18-19 First Amendment and extension into
FY 19-20 - Traditions Psychology Group dba Traditions Behavioral Health

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 a First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Traditions Psychology Group, Inc.**, a California corporation, **dba Traditions Behavioral Health** (not a local vendor) to provide psychiatry services at Behavioral Wellness facilities, for a total amount not to exceed **\$1,676,223** for FY 18-19 and **\$1,676,300** for FY 19-20 for a total contract amount of **\$3,352,523** for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.
- B. Approve and authorize the Behavioral Wellness Director (or designee) to make immaterial changes to the First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor in accordance with Section 25 of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time.
- C. 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 potentially 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:

This item is on the agenda to extend the term of the Agreement with Traditions Behavioral Health (TBH) into Fiscal Year 19-20 for \$1,676,300 and to authorize Behavioral Wellness Director to amend the First Amended Agreement for immaterial changes as needed. TBH, a psychiatrist staffing service, provides a long-term solution to help address Behavioral Wellness' ongoing psychiatrist staffing shortages. Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to access contracted psychiatric personnel to cover necessary and mandated services throughout the County's Behavioral Wellness system of care (e.g., acute inpatient, crisis and outpatient).

Background:

TBH provides an alternative to temporary psychiatry services provided by locum tenens staffing arrangements, by offering long term placement of highly-qualified psychiatrists. Despite historical continuous open recruitment for psychiatrists, Behavioral Wellness has experienced perpetual challenges attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists to work at Behavioral Wellness facilities. TBH's psychiatrists provide mandated psychiatric services such as diagnostic evaluations; medication evaluations; prescriptions for psychiatric medications; review, revision and approval of client assessments; and participation in the development, review, revision and approval of client treatment plans. TBH physicians follow a philosophy of recovery-focus, rather than illness-focus, and embrace the concepts of diversity and cultural competence.

The contract with TBH focuses on positive client outcomes, maximum productivity and produces operational benefits that enhance the County's ability to provide care throughout the County's Behavioral Wellness system of care (e.g., acute inpatient, crisis and outpatient). These benefits include:

- Having psychiatrists available to cover one to two weekends per month as well as extended hours on all weekdays and weekends, including holidays at the PHF. This allows direct physician contact until 11 PM every day for admissions to the PHF.
- The ability of discharging patients on the weekends and shortening patient stays because care can begin immediately. TBH's physicians cover all acute and crisis services in South County and in doing so are covering the most difficult to recruit psychiatrist positions.
- Extended coverage for the County's Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU). With CSUs there is an even higher than traditional need for after extended hours and weekend coverage. Having the same physicians cover both the PHF and CSU as well as provide post hospital discharge visits has improved the continuity of care.
- Prompt response by TBH to any performance concerns raised by Behavioral Wellness about TBH psychiatrists and facilitation of communications between the County and TBH psychiatrists has resulted in timely resolution of performance concerns.

Performance Outcomes

During FY 18-19 Behavioral Wellness has continuously employed professionals from TBH, one per day for inpatient services and one per day for outpatient services. Each inpatient doctor works a 16 hour day.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	Total Contract Maximum
General Fund			
State	\$ 838,111.50	\$ 838,150.00	
Federal	\$ 838,111.50	\$ 838,150.00	
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 1,676,223.00	\$ 1,676,300.00	\$3,352,523

Narrative: The above referenced contracts are funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources are included in the FY 2018-2019 Adopted Budget and the FY 2019-2020 Adopted Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing staffing services, there is a risk that subcontracted personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in performance of assigned duties. To mitigate these risks, the contract with TBH allows Behavioral Wellness to request substitution of individual psychiatry staff for cause, and requires that the agency provide Professional Liability insurance. In addition, the contract contains a 90-day cancellation clause for convenience that either party can initiate or immediate cancellation for cause by the County.

Negotiations with TBH resulted in changes to the County’s standard Exhibit C. Risks associated with these changes have been mitigated with input from the applicable departments.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of each of the above contracts to gilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us and one (1) to bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Traditions Behavioral Health FY 2018-2020 AM 1
- Attachment B: Traditions Behavioral Health FY 2018-2019 BC 19-060

Authored by:

Quiana Lopez