



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:** October 4, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220  
Contact Info: John Winckler, LMFT, Division Chief of Clinical Operations  
Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-5220  
**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness – Mental Wellness Center FY 21-24 First Amendment

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County, Inc. (dba Mental Wellness Center)** (a local vendor), referenced as BC 21-033, to modify the staffing requirements for the Intensive Residential Programs and Polly's House to increase the full time equivalent (FTE) allocations for the Residential Administrator and Transportation Coordinator positions; update Exhibits B-1 and B-2 for FYs 22-23 and 23-24; and add \$964,958 to the contract for a new total contract maximum amount not to exceed **\$7,436,811**, inclusive of \$2,152,751 for FY 21-22, \$2,642,030 for FY 22-23, and \$2,642,030 for FY 23-24, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 of the Agreement; modify Program staffing requirements per Exhibit A-2 of the Agreement; reallocate funds between funding sources with discretion per Exhibit B of the Agreement; reallocate flexible funds between adult residential facilities and/or reallocate additional funds from other funding sources per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; adjust the provisional rate with discretion per Exhibit B of the Agreement; authorize additional services with discretion per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; increase or remove the County Maximum Allowable Rate with discretion per Exhibit B-1 of the Agreement; and

amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E 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

- C. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that 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:**

Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County, Inc. (dba Mental Wellness Center) provides residential and community mental health services to adults in the Santa Barbara area. The Mental Wellness Center (MWC) Family Advocate offers services to families of clients with serious and persistent mental illnesses (SMI) through education, support and linkage to resources.

BWell wishes to amend the FY 21-24 Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Mental Wellness Center to modify the staffing requirements for the Intensive Residential Programs and Polly's House to increase the FTE allocations for the Residential Administrator and Transportation Coordinator positions; update Exhibits B-1 and B-2 for FYs 22-23 and 23-24; and add \$964,958 to the contract for a new total contract maximum amount not to exceed \$7,436,811, inclusive of \$2,152,751 for FY 21-22, \$2,642,030 for FY 22-23, and \$2,642,030 for FY 23-24, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

**Background:**

Behavioral Wellness contracted with Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara County, Inc. (dba Mental Wellness Center) to provide intensive residential services through Casa Juana Maria and Cottage Grove House programs, which are Adult Residential Facilities that provide in-home rehabilitation and support services to residents. MWC also operates both Alameda House, an adult housing program for individuals with SMI, and Polly's House, which provides the same individuals with adult housing supports (intensive residential services). The De La Vina House provides permanent housing, single room occupancy for clients. This program provides greatly needed housing for the chronically homeless individuals who meet the Continuum of Care (Shelter Plus Care) eligibility. BWell's Homeless Outreach Worker and other County-contracted providers refer clients who meet the criteria for placement. MWC also operates the Santa Barbara Recovery Learning Center (RLC), which offers the Consumer-Led Program, a program that provides peer support, self-help and connections to community resources, including health and wellness activities as well as a computer lab for clients to have access to computers and learn related skills.

On April 16, 2021, Mental Wellness Center was selected through the RFP process and awarded \$360,000 per year for a three-year period, subject to annual budget appropriations, to provide RLC, Family Advocate and Peer Technology Suite (Peer Tech Suite) Program Services. The Mental Wellness Center RLC Program will include computer access and technology training and classes with a focus on introducing and supporting the Peer Tech Suite to the clients/members of the RLC program.

An amendment is necessary to provide additional funding for Mental Wellness Center to pay competitive wages to retain staff. Mental Wellness Center has experienced high staff turnover in the past year with many leaving for similar facilities that pay higher wages. The proposed wage increases are in line with comparable facilities and positions in the behavioral health field. Additional funding is also needed to expand staffing at several facilities to ensure adequate oversight and care of the clients, as the medical and mental health needs of Mental Wellness Center's 29 current residents have become increasingly complex. The percentage of residents over the age of 59 (requiring an exemption from Community Care Licensing to continue their residency) has risen to 50%. Many residents also live with chronic health conditions. This, combined with the COVID-19 protocols established by Mental Wellness Center's care teams, has increased the level of staffing needed to provide care to residents.

**Performance Measure:**

Performance goals for the housing programs are as follows:

- Reduce mental health and substance abuse symptoms resulting in reduced utilization of involuntary care and emergency rooms for mental health and physical health problems;
- Assist clients in their mental health recovery process and with developing the skills necessary to lead independent, healthy and productive lives in the community;

Performance measures for the housing programs are:

- Reduce incarceration/juvenile hall to 5% or lower;
- Reduce client psychiatric inpatient admissions to 5% or lower;
- Reduce physical health hospitalizations to 10% or lower;
- Reduce physical health emergency care to 10% or lower;
- Clients with stable/permanent housing will be at 95% or higher;
- Clients engaged in purposeful activities will be 40% or higher;
- Clients discharged to a higher level of care will be at 15% or lower; and
- Clients discharged to a lower level of care will be at 85% or higher.

Performance goals for the Recovery Learning Center/Family Advocate and Peer Tech Suite are as follows:

- Create peer-run supports and services that build bridges to local communities and engage natural community supports;
- Increase participant access to technology and training; and
- Support family members throughout the County.

Performance measures for the Recovery Learning Center/Family Advocate and Peer Tech Suite are:

- Provide services to at least 400 unduplicated clients (for the Family Advocate, this is 200);
- Provide at least 7,200 client visits (for the Family Advocate, this is 1000);
- Provide 24 (2/month) outreach events (RLC only);
- Attendees to outreach events will be at least 1,200 (RLC only);
- Provide 24 (2/month) support group meetings (RLC only);
- Provide 40 (10/quarter) computer classes (RLC/Peer Tech Suite only);
- Have at least 200 client visits to the computer lab (RLC/Peer Tech Suite only);
- Provide 12 (1/month) outings or educational events with clients (RLC only);
- Provide 24 (2/month) trainings about consumer and family member issues (Family Advocate only);

- Serve 25 unique client service in Spanish (Family Advocate only); and
- Link 40 (10% of clients served) to additional services (for the Family Advocate, this is 20 (10% of families served)).

### **Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

During FY 2021-22:

- **Casa Juana Maria** met 4 of their 6 goals (not including two discharge goals). They served 6 clients with no discharges. All 6 clients had stable/permanent housing. There were no inpatient hospitalizations, ER visits or jail days; 13% were hospitalized for physical healthcare with a goal of 10% or less and 21% were engaged in a purposeful activity with a goal of 40% or more.
- **Alameda House** met 5 of their 8 goals. They served an average of 5 clients per quarter with 2 discharges; 9% were admitted to acute psychiatric inpatient care with a goal of 5% or less; 4% received emergency care for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; no clients were hospitalized for physical health; 4% were incarcerated with a goal of 5% or less; 92% had stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95% or more; no clients were engaged in a purposeful activity with a goal of 40% or more; both discharges were same level of care.
- **Cottage Grove House** met 2 of their 8 goals. They served an average of 5 clients per quarter with 5 total discharges; 12% were admitted to acute psychiatric inpatient care with a goal of 5% or less; 7% received emergency care for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; 4% were hospitalized for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; 9% were incarcerated with a goal of 5% or less; 85% had stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95% or more; no clients were engaged in a purposeful activity with a goal of 40% or more; 2 of the discharges were discharged to a higher level of care (40%) with a goal of 15% or less; no one was discharged to a lower level of care.
- **Polly's House** met 5 of their 8 goals. They served an average of 11 clients per quarter with one total discharge; 2% were admitted to acute psychiatric inpatient care with a goal of 5% or less; 17% received emergency care for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; 2% were hospitalized for physical health with a goal of 10% or less; there were no incarcerations; 98% had stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95% or more; 3% were engaged in a purposeful activity with a goal of 40% or more; the one discharge was discharged to same level of care (not higher nor lower).
- **De La Vina House** met 4 of their 6 goals (not including two discharge goals). They served 5 clients with no discharges. There were no inpatient hospitalizations and no jail days; there were no ER visits for physical healthcare; 75% had stable/permanent housing with a goal of 95% or more; 30% were engaged in a purposeful activity with a goal of 40% or more.
- **Recovery Learning Center (RLC):** They served an average of 81 clients per quarter and had a total of 9,900 client visits. They held 20 support groups, 80 support group meetings; 3 classes; 3 outings/educational events; served 320 unserved/underserved clients; and referred 129 clients to additional services.
- **RLC Family Advocate:** They served an average of 106 clients per quarter. There were 11 client visits; 51 support groups; 362 support group meetings; 13 educational events; 16 clients received services in Spanish; served 388 unserved/underserved clients; and referred 268 clients to additional services.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>FY 21-22 Cost</u></b>	<b><u>FY 22-23 Cost</u></b>	<b><u>FY 23-24 Cost</u></b>	<b><u>Overall FY 21-24 Cost</u></b>
General Fund				
State	\$ 1,251,849.00	\$ 1,570,402.00	\$ 1,570,402.00	
Federal	\$ 599,815.00	\$ 782,534.00	\$ 782,534.00	
Fees				
County:	\$ 301,088.00	\$ 289,094.00	\$ 289,094.00	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,152,751.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,642,030.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,642,030.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,436,811.00</b>

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State, Federal and County funds. The funding sources were included in the FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 Adopted Budgets.

**Key Contract Risks:**

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments. Behavioral Wellness contracts include language requiring contractors to repay any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to County.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete executed agreement to Bethany Le at [bethle@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bethle@sbcbswell.org) and to the BWell Contracts Division at [bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Mental Wellness Center FY 21-24 First Amendment
- Attachment B: Mental Wellness Center FY 21-24 Board Contract

**Authored by:**

B. Le