



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: November 9, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Interim Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Interim Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Personnel Resolution to Add 9 FTEs (Supplemental Funding to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the Resolution in Attachment A, effective November 15, 2021, to add nine legal positions, totaling 9.0 FTE, to the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell), consisting of:
 1. Two full-time (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS);
 2. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Administrative Office Professional (AOP) for Alcohol and Drug Programs;
 3. Three full-time (3.0 FTE) Peer Recovery Assistants;
 4. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Case Worker for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT);
 5. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Psychologist for long-term care team; and
 6. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Practitioner for First Episode Psychosis (FEP); and
- B. 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 potential physical impacts on the environment, and therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

The above-referenced item is on the agenda to request that the Board of Supervisors adopt an amendment to the Salary Resolution to add nine (9.0 FTE) legal positions to BWell, inclusive of:

1. Two full-time (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS);
2. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Administrative Office Professional (AOP) for Alcohol and Drug Programs;
3. Three full-time (3.0 FTE) Peer Recovery Assistants;
4. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Case Worker for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT);
5. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Psychologist for long-term care team; and
6. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Practitioner for First Episode Psychosis (FEP).

Approval of the recommended actions will enable the expansion of mental health services and substance use disorder services in Santa Barbara County. This service expansion will be funded by supplements to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) made available through the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Although these funds, which are being administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), have not yet been awarded to the County, BWell requests Board approval of the amended Salary Resolution in anticipation of the upcoming awards. The above positions will not be filled until the funds are awarded.

BWell is eligible to receive a total of \$2,517,171 in supplemental SABG funding through the end of FY 2024-25 and a total of \$1,251,949 in supplemental MHBG funding through the end of FY 2024-25, both of which are made possible through the passage of the CRRSAA and ARPA. CRRSAA funding and ARPA funding will be available through December 31, 2022 and June 30, 2025, respectively. Prior to the expiration of this funding, BWell will identify new possible funding streams to sustain the delivery of these services.

Background:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) will receive \$3,769,120 in supplemental funding from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) through the end of FY 2024-25. The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will award BWell this supplemental funding—made available through the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)—as part of its efforts to increase access to behavioral health care for all California residents as the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified behavioral health needs across the state.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG)

DHCS provides SABG funding to local governments to provide substance use disorder services directly or by contracting with local providers. BWell is eligible to receive a total of \$2,517,171 in supplemental SABG funding through the end of FY 2024-25. This supplemental funding will expand the delivery of substance use disorder treatment and prevention services by community-based organizations and BWell's capacity to oversee service delivery and manage attendant administrative functions.

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)

DHCS distributes MHBG funding to participating county mental health departments to provide comprehensive community mental health services to adults with serious mental illnesses and children with

serious emotional disturbances. BWell is eligible to receive a total of \$1,251,949 in supplemental MHBG funding through the end of FY 2024-25. This supplemental funding will enhance BWell's capacity to deliver services to transitional-aged youth presenting with first episode psychosis and adults with severe mental illness.

Uses of Supplemental Funding and Addition of Nine Legal Positions

This supplemental funding will enable BWell to enhance the delivery of substance use disorder and mental health services throughout Santa Barbara County. Additionally, its availability over the span of four fiscal years will enable BWell to identify funding strategies to sustain this enhanced level of service before the supplemental funding ends, which may include recovering eligible program costs through reimbursement, such as through Medi-Cal. Certain services, such as the substance use disorder services, will be sustained by existing funding including SABG, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, and CalWORKs.

BWell will use this supplemental funding, to contract with local providers to deliver services countywide. BWell will request approval for these contracts at a later date. Additionally, this funding will offset the costs of salaries and employee benefits associated with adding nine legal positions (9.0 FTE), subject to Board approval (Recommended Action A).

The positions to be added include:

1. Two full-time (2.0 FTE) Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS);
2. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Administrative Office Professional (AOP) for Alcohol and Drug Programs;
3. Three full-time (3.0 FTE) Peer Recovery Assistants;
4. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Case Worker for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT);
5. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Psychologist for long-term care team; and
6. One full-time (1.0 FTE) Practitioner for First Episode Psychosis (FEP).

ADP – Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists and Administrative Office Professional

BWell Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) oversees the prevention and treatment of over 3,000 unique adolescent and adult clients per year. Over the past six months, ADP has been or will be awarded over \$4,000,000 in grants to expand prevention and treatment services in each region of Santa Barbara County. ADP was awarded a \$960,000 Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant to provide prevention and outreach services in local high schools to address cannabis use and misuse; the grant was accepted by the Board on May 18, 2021, and the grant agreement was executed on May 28, 2021.

The upcoming supplemental funding from SABG, made possible through the passage of CRRSAA and ARPA, will expand ADP prevention and treatment services and oversight demands quickly and significantly. While ADP has contracts with community-based organizations (CBOs) for its direct prevention and treatment services, the service delivery and oversight requirements of these grants necessitate an increase in County infrastructure. It is essential that we add two (2.0 FTE total) civil service Alcohol and Drug Service Specialists (ADSS) to the Department of Behavioral Wellness to not only meet the internal agency demands of these grants, but to address the ongoing opioid and stimulant use epidemic and to prevent cannabis misuse among our youth in Santa Barbara County. The additional Administrative Office Professional (AOP) position will provide the administrative support necessary for the ADSS positions and existing ADP staff to provide prevention and treatment services.

EPI – Peer Recovery Assistants and Practitioner

On March 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of BWell to execute a multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC089) with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), accepting a grant award to implement a Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) model to address the unique needs of serving transitional-aged (16 – 25) clients who are presenting with first episode psychosis. A core component of the program is peer support. With grant funding, BWell proposes to increase our Peer Recovery Assistant staff by 3.0 FTE and add an additional 1.0 FTE Practitioner to ensure we remain in compliance with grant requirements while implementing the CSC model. While the grant from MHSOAC continues through February 28, 2025, Behavioral Wellness needed additional financial support to fully implement a Peer Recovery Assistant program. Funding was identified with the expansion of the Mental Health Block Grant (CRRSAA) awards. During the grant period, Behavioral Wellness is committed to identifying additional funding sources to continue these positions, including possible Medi-Cal reimbursement.

ACT – Case Worker

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is a multidisciplinary team that provides clients with housing assistance, supported employment and education, vocational skills enhancement, medication support, counseling, peer support and social skills development. Services are provided at the office or in the field to serve individuals who are unable to be seen in the clinic due to challenging circumstances. In order to provide the best possible care, ACT is in need of an additional Case Worker for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program located in Santa Barbara. Funding for the position is provided by expansion of the Mental Health Block Grant (CRRSAA) awards. Behavioral Wellness is committed to the sustainability of this position and will identify additional grants or resources, including Medi-Cal reimbursement.

PHF - Psychologist

The Psychiatric Health Facility provides inpatient care to the most vulnerable population in Santa Barbara County. The locked mental health facility is in need of a psychologist for the Long-Term Care team to coordinate assessments for LPS conservatorship and make recommendations to the courts as necessary for clients who are in need of the highest level of mental health services. The position is supported by the expansion of the Mental Health Block Grant (ARPA) awards. Behavioral Wellness is committed to the sustainability of this position and will identify additional grants or resources, including Medi-Cal reimbursement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 21-22</u>	<u>FY 22-23 through FY 24-25</u>
General Fund		
State (Prop 64 Grant)	\$ 73,100	\$ 329,100
Federal (SABG - ARPA & CRSSA)	\$ 1,150,300	\$ 1,366,871
Federal (MHBG - ARPA & CRSSA)	\$ 447,500	\$ 804,449
Fees		
Total:	\$ 1,670,900	\$ 2,500,420

DHCS will award supplemental funding totaling \$3,769,120 from the (1) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) in the amount of \$2,517,171 and (2) Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) in the amount of \$1,251,949. This supplemental funding will be used to offset the costs of salaries and employee benefit for the proposed 9.0 FTE legal positions and services and supplies. The proposed positions will not be filled until funds are awarded from DHCS and the Board of Supervisors accepts the grant funding. Following the end of the grant terms in FY 2024-25, the costs of the ADP positions can be sustained by existing funding streams. BWell will identify new funding sources to sustain the costs of the remaining positions.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

Add 9 new

FTEs:

Add 9.0

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) copy of the minute order as well as one (1) copy of the fully executed Salary Resolution to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcowell.org, to Rey Guillen at rguillen@sbcowell.org, and to Stefan Brewer, Workforce Planning Division, Human Resources Department at SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Salary Resolution

Authored by:

B. Le