



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: September 20, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
**SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Staffing Contract – DocStar Medical Partners LLC
FY 2021-2024**

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 multi-year Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **DocStar Medical Partners LLC** (not a local vendor) for the provision of locum tenens psychiatry services for the period of November 22, 2021 through June 30, 2024, for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$1,066,000**, inclusive of \$266,000 for FY 21-22 (inclusive of \$176,000 under Purchase Order CN334 and its amendments CO640 and CO2473, but which otherwise cancels, nullifies, and supersedes Purchase Order CN334 and all amendments thereto), \$400,000 for FY 22-23, and \$400,000 for FY 23-24;
- 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 and make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 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:

The above-referenced agreement is on the agenda to request approval and authorization to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with DocStar Medical Partners LLC (DocStar) for the period of November 22, 2021 through June 30, 2024, for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$1,066,000**, inclusive of \$176,000 under Purchase Order CN334 its amendments CO640 and CO2473, but which otherwise cancels, nullifies, and supersedes Purchase Order CN334 and all amendments thereto). Additionally, the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests delegation of authority to the Director of BWell or designee to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement and make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 26 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. Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to task DocStar to refer professionals who can provide mandated and greatly needed psychiatry services for outpatient services and acute inpatient services within the system of care.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, including psychiatric and nursing services at its County facilities. Across the nation, there is an ongoing shortage of psychiatric and nursing services. BWell has experienced ongoing challenges that mirror the national challenges of attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants to work at BWell facilities. BWell currently uses locum tenens temporary physicians to fill ongoing needs for psychiatric staff at outpatient facilities and the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF).

On November 22, 2021, BWell entered into a Purchase Order Agreement (CN334) with DocStar for a total Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed \$176,000 through June 30, 2022. DocStar Medical Partners LLC provides temporary psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants to Behavioral Wellness clinics, the PHF, and other Behavioral Wellness programs, as needed. These temporary staff 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.

On January 27, 2022, the County Purchasing Agent executed the First Change Order to Purchase Order CN334 to remove inapplicable language from Exhibit B of the Agreement, with no change to the Maximum Contract Amount (CO640). On July 11, 2022, the County Purchasing Agent executed the Second Change Order to Purchase Order CN334 to extend the contract term to August 30, 2022, with no change to the Maximum Contract Amount (CO2473).

The utilization of locum tenens staff provided by DocStar has been higher than originally anticipated, and BWell must amend to increase the Maximum Contract Amount to cover services that were utilized in FY 21-22 and will continue to be utilized in FY 22-23 and FY 23-24. Due to the County Purchase Order threshold amount, BWell requests Board of Supervisors approval to replace the existing Purchase Order with an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor and effectively extend the Agreement term through June 30, 2024 for a Maximum Contract Amount of \$1,066,000.

Performance Outcomes:

BWell is currently utilizing two (2) professionals (1.25 FTE) provided by DocStar Medical Partners LLC, inclusive of one Psychiatrist and one Physician’s Assistant. These locum tenens professionals are providing services throughout the County at various programs and locations including the PHF, South County Crisis Services, and the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). The staffing professionals are all performing on par with the County’s civil service providers. They provide services according to generally accepted practices, participate in medical staff meetings, are part of medical staff meeting peer review, and respond appropriately to communications and clinical feedback.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total FY 21-22 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 22-23 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 23-24 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 21-24</u>
General Fund				
State	\$ 133,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 533,000
Federal	\$ 133,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 533,000
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 266,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,066,000

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources were included in the FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 Adopted Budgets and will be included in the FY 23-24 Proposed Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing temporary staffing services, there is a risk that temporary personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in the performance of assigned duties. BWell may cancel an assignment for cause or convenience, and the contractor provides professional liability insurance for the professionals to mitigate these risks. In addition, the County pays only the contractor’s fees when the County utilizes a healthcare professional referred by the contractor; there are no monthly fees attached to this agreement.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed contract and one (1) minute order to bethle@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: DocStar Medical Partners LLC FY 21-24 BC

Authored by:

B. Le