



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: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: March 19, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Dana Gamble, Deputy Director (805) 681-5171
Primary Care and Family Health
SUBJECT: Allocate Two Legal Positions and Establish Budget for Jail Health Monitoring
by the Public Health Department

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of Public Health to establish and hire a 0.5 FTE Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor and a 1.0FTE Correctional Health Quality Care Improvement Coordinator to support the development and expansion of sustainable jail health services;
- b) Adopt and approve changes to the Salary Resolution (Attachment A), which allocates to the Public Health Department one (1) 0.5 FTE Program/Business Leader-Physician and one (1) 1.0 FTE Program/Business Leader-General;
- c) Approve and authorize Budget Revision BJE 0009598 to establish appropriations of \$98,700 in the Public Health Department, Health Care Fund for Salaries and Employee Benefits funded by an operating transfer from the General Fund for Other Financing Uses funded by release of Committed Litigation fund balance; and

- d) Determine that the above actions are not a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since the recommended actions are an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Summary Text:

On December 5, 2023, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed to expand the Department of Public Health (PHD) monitoring of the agreement with CFMG/Wellpath and to continue the partnership with PHD and Behavioral Wellness over healthcare services at the Sheriff’s Office and Probation Department’s detention facilities.

PHD has been conducting audits of medical records provided by CFMG/Wellpath and providing quarterly updated on health care delivery at all County detention facilities. In addition, the stipulated judgment and remedial plan in Murray et al. v. County of Santa Barbara et al, provides for active monitoring of any private healthcare services provider.

The recommended action is in line with the direction from the Board and the recommendations in the remedial plan and is to allocate two (2) new legal positions to PHD to advise and support jail health medical staffing with adequate expertise, and to provide ongoing monitoring and oversight of the private jail health care provider contract to ensure that County health experts are part of jail medical policy making, quality assurance, mortality reviews and other basic elements of clinical oversight. The two positions will advise the Sheriff’s office, Probation and jail health contractor on matters related to healthcare delivery and will report to the PHD quarterly on these matters.

Background:

On February 28, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the Sheriff and the Probation Department to contract with the California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) for healthcare services (medical and mental health services) at the jail and for medical services only for Probation’s juvenile facilities. On April 1, 2017, CFMG (now Wellpath) officially took over medical services for the Sheriff’s Office and Probation Department.

On September 12, 2023, your Board directed the CEO’s Office to evaluate options for additional monitoring from PHD of the healthcare services contract. Staff from the Sheriff’s Office, Probation, PHD, Behavioral Wellness, and the CEO’s Office subsequently met and evaluated various scenarios for providing varying levels of additional oversight to the Wellpath contract.

On December 5, 2023, your Board received a report regarding options for PHD monitoring of the agreement with Wellpath and partnership with PHD and Behavioral Wellness over healthcare services at the Sheriff’s Office detention facilities. At that time, your Board directed staff, among other actions, to add dedicated clinical staff within PHD to be assigned at the jails/juvenile hall to provide health care oversight and compliance monitoring, funded from the Litigation, Compliance, and Contractual Obligations Set-Aside in General County Programs. It was agreed that with these changes, and increased level of monitoring and compliance resources, the Sheriff’s Office and Probation would continue contract administration and work in close partnership with PHD staff toward the ultimate goal of improving the provision of medical and mental health services within the County jail and juvenile hall facilities.

In order to provide meaningful oversight of the adequacy of all health services in the jails, PHD is establishing a group of correctional health experts. These two positions will independently assess compliance and not rely on the private jail health care contractor’s assessments of their own compliance.

This will effectively allow the County to expand monitoring of care, through nursing and medical professionals hired and supervised by PHD.

The Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will play a pivotal role in ensuring the delivery of high-quality healthcare services to incarcerated individuals through a third-party contractor while maintaining compliance with relevant regulations and standards. The Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will be responsible for monitoring, coordinating and providing monitoring of all clinical and related activities of the Jail Health Contractor clinical staff to implement National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), and evidence-based standards of healthcare (e.g., medical, dental, mental health, ancillary services etc.) for the incarcerated individuals and provide ongoing advise and report to the PHD, County Sheriff, Probation, and Behavioral Wellness Departments, in addition to the Jail Health Contractor.

The Correctional Health Quality Care Improvement (QCI) Manager will report to the Chief Correctional Healthcare Medical Advisor and provide oversight and guidance while assuring adherence to clinical protocols and regulatory standards by the jail health contractor providing services (e.g., medical, dental, mental health, ancillary services etc.) for the incarcerated individuals.

Roles and Reporting:

The QCI Manager and the Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will provide monitoring and oversight of the adequacy of all health services in the jails and independently assess compliance and assess adequacy and appropriateness of care.

The Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will provide advice and expert opinion to the Sheriff, Probation, and the healthcare team within the County Jail and Juvenile Facilities, including physicians, nurses and mental health providers to develop and implement clinical protocols and standards and to ensure the delivery of evidence based and comprehensive healthcare services.

The Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will report directly to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of PHD and will provide monthly reports to the CMO and regularly to the PHD Director on the performance, quality of care, and matters related to health care delivery in the County’s detention facilities as well as conducting root cause analysis for in-custody deaths occurring in the County Jail or Juvenile.

Regular reports, audits and findings by the Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor will be shared with the Board through regular briefings by PHD.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow PHD to add the following positions:

1. One (1) 0.5 FTE Program/Business Leader-Physician
2. One (1) 1.0 FTE Program/Business Leader-General

Performance Measure:

These positions will report performance of the Jail Health Contractor as indicated above.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Approval of this recommendation will authorize the Director of Public Health to establish and hire a 0.5 FTE Chief Correctional Health Medical Advisor and a 1.0 FTE Correctional Health Quality Care Improvement Coordinator. The projected Fiscal Year 2023-24 cost is approximately \$98,700 and the annual fiscal year cost for these positions will be approximately \$421,600 which will be by a set-aside in General County Programs Litigation fund balance in response to a settlement reached with Disability Rights California (DRC) to improve conditions at the Santa Barbara County jails. The attached BJE #0009598 will establish appropriations in PHD, Health Care Fund in Salaries and Employee Benefits in FY 2023-24 in the amount of \$98,700 funded from the Litigation Compliance and Contractual Obligations Set-Aside in General County Programs. Approximately \$421,600 will be added as a Final Budget Amendment and included as part of the Public Health Department’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

Add 2.0

FTEs:

Add 1.5

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) copy of the minute order and one (1) copy of the fully executed Salary Resolution to Tracy Rogers, Workforce Planning Analyst, Human Resources Department at trogers@countyofsb.org and to PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

- A. Salary Resolution
- B. Budget Journal Entry BJE#0009598

Authored by:

Melissa Beebe, Deputy Director, Administration