



**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:** June 4, 2024  
**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) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220  
Contact Info: Ole Behrendtsen, MD, Medical Director  
Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220

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AN

**SUBJECT: Fred Berge, M.D. FY 24–25 Renewal Contractor on Payroll Services Agreement**

**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 and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Contractor on Payroll with **Fred Berge, M.D.**, for the provision of psychiatric services for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in an amount not to exceed **\$145,730**; and
- b) Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) provides specialty mental health services to adults with mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, in part through contracted providers, including Contractors on Payroll (COP). The above-referenced contract is a renewal of an existing COP contract with Dr. Berge and complies with the Santa Barbara County Contractor on Payroll Policy, approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 20, 2015. Approval of the contract will ensure the continued provision of critical services in the County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) throughout FY 24-25. Dr. Berge also provides Psychiatric Services to South County Crisis Services, Santa Barbara AB109 clinic, and the Calle Real Adult clinic, and may be reassigned to provide services at other locations

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as needed. Psychiatric services include the development, review, revision, and approval of client assessments and treatment plans, the administration of medical histories and physicals, the prescribing of medication and treatments, ordering tests, reviewing clinical records, and providing evaluations.

**Background:**

BWell has experienced ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining psychiatrists and other individuals who are certified and licensed to provide specialty and ancillary mental health services. Although the County maintains ongoing recruitment for these professionals, it rarely produces enough qualified candidates to meet departmental needs. A COP helps to bridge the gap in mental health treatment capacity.

**Performance Outcomes:**

Dr. Berge is performing in accordance with prior agreement including providing services for several clinics, the 1) AB109 clinic in Santa Barbara, in cooperation with the Probation Department, 2) the Calle Real adult outpatient clinic, and 3) the Recovery Learning Center. He is providing satisfactory levels of reimbursable services for the Department.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

| <b><u>Funding Sources</u></b> | <b><u>FY 24-25</u></b> |                |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| General Fund                  |                        |                |
| Federal                       | \$                     | 72,865         |
| State                         | \$                     | 72,865         |
| Fees                          |                        |                |
| Other:                        |                        |                |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$</b>              | <b>145,730</b> |

Narrative: The contract is funded by a combination of State and Federal revenue (Medi-Cal/Realignment Funds). The proposed COP expenditures budget have been included in the FY 24-25 Recommended Budget.

**Key Contract Risks:**

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future Medi-Cal audit disallowances. However, BWell provides training to contractors to minimize financial risks to the County.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy the above contract to [mpurvis@sbcowell.org](mailto:mpurvis@sbcowell.org), [bwelcontractsstaff@sbcowell.org](mailto:bwelcontractsstaff@sbcowell.org), and Stefan Brewer, Employment and Workforce Planning Division, Human Resources Department at [SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org](mailto:SBrewer@SBcountyhr.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Fred Berge, M.D. FY 24-25 Contractor on Payroll Agreement

**Authored by:**

M. Purvis