



Annual Report of Wellpath Services for the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Detention Facilities

2020-2021



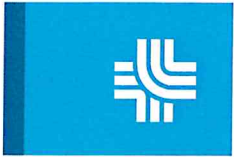


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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Chief Heitman,

As we are all aware, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year in correctional healthcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the juvenile hall facility and Main Jail experienced significant impacts because of COVID-19 during the year. In March of 2020, our Wellpath team worked collaboratively with Sheriff's Office staff, Probation staff and Santa Barbara County Public Health representatives to develop comprehensive pandemic response plans, which were individualized, for each facility in order to protect staff, visitors and those incarcerated from this deadly disease.

Our Wellpath team developed and delivered training to medical, probation, auxiliary staff and incarcerated residents on several different COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures including mask donning/doffing, proper handling of infected clothing/linen, proper usage and storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other topics.

We are also proud to report that we received NCCHC accreditation.

We are incredibly thankful for our partners at the Probation Department and look forward to continuing our great collaboration to keep Santa Barbara's incarcerated juvenile population safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Amber Nunes, RN, BSN, CCHP
Wellpath Health Services Administrator
Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities

On-Site Medical Care

Youth in custody have timely access to quality medical care. Patients request medical services via sick call slips, which are collected and triaged at least twice daily by medical nursing staff at each site. The juvenile sites do not have 24-hour nursing services so our on-call physician is available by phone for medical issues when nursing is not on-site.

During contract year-four, on-site nursing staff completed **6,217** clinic visits at Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) and **1,050** clinic visits at Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC), which comprised of sick visits, immunization administration and laboratory services. In addition to the nursing visits, our pediatrician completed **625** medical clinic visits at SMJH and **181** at LPBC. This includes **80** Comprehensive Well Child visits, **442** sick visits and **58** chronic care visits at SMJH. At LPBC, there were **seven** Well Child visits, **124** sick visits and **50** chronic care visits. The on-site pediatrician sees all youth within 96 hours of intake and youth with chronic conditions are seen at least monthly. The most common chronic conditions seen by our pediatrician are asthma, obesity and hypertension.

Dental services are provided offsite at the detention facilities and are addressed in the off-site medical care section.

Youth are offered recommended vaccinations during incarceration. The juvenile sites offer all immunizations recommended by the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2020 and 2021 Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. Vaccines are provided to youth through the Vaccine for Children's immunization program managed by the California Department of Public Health/Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. There were **134** immunizations administered at the juvenile sites in contract year four. No COVID-19 vaccines were given to youth in contract year four due to age restrictions in Emergency Use Authorization which approved vaccine for only persons 18 years or older.

Psychosocial issues continue to be the biggest health issues facing incarcerated youth with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), substance use disorders, mental health issues including impacts of childhood trauma and dental issues being common.

Due to the elevated risk of STIs among the juvenile population, all youth are offered STI testing upon intake into the juvenile facilities regardless of symptoms. During their initial and annual intake exam, youth are tested for HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea and syphilis. At all other intakes youth are offered comprehensive STI testing. In contract year four, **27** incarcerated youth were treated for an STI which is approximately one in every four youth tested. The most common STI treated at the detention facilities was chlamydia followed by gonorrhea. All females are tested for pregnancy at each intake and offered birth control/family planning services including emergency contraception. In contract year four, Wellpath collaborated with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV) to provide one-on-one sexual health counseling services for youth who test positive for STI or youth who are at high risk for STI. We have started tracking how many youth are served by FBSMV for contract year five.

Since addiction is a pediatric onset disease and youth in detention have higher rates of substance use disorders compared to youth in the community, all youth are screened for substance use disorders. Youth with positive screens are referred to Behavioral Wellness for treatment and to our board certified addiction medicine pediatrician to assess for Medication Assisted treatment. The most commonly abused substances by the juvenile population continue to be cannabis, alcohol, prescription medications and psychostimulants. An increase in opioid use and stimulant use was noted in this contract year. Youth identified as being at risk for withdrawal are appropriately monitored with detoxification protocols based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidelines. There have been no opioid overdoses requiring Narcan in contract year four.

All youth eligible for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for an opioid or alcohol use disorder are seen by both our board certified addiction medicine pediatrician and the Behavioral Wellness Child and Adolescent psychiatrist. In year four, no youth were started on MAT.

There were no emergency responses by medical staff for contract year four. There were **three** youth sent by ambulance to the Emergency Department (**two** at SMJH and **one** at LPBC) when medical was not onsite.

Off-site Medical Care

There are no specialty services provided on-site at the juvenile facilities. Off-site care is provided by specialists who are contracted directly with the Probation Department.

There were 102 off-site specialty appointments at SMJH (61) and LPBC (51) with dental appointments accounting for 49% of all off-site appointments. There were less than half the amount of off-site appointments for contract year four as there were for contract year three. This is due in large part to the declining population in the juvenile facilities and COVID related outpatient office closures. During contract year four, we were unable to send youth for dental evaluations within 60 days of intakes due to statewide dental office closings due to COVID-19. During COVID only urgent or emergent dental care was provided to youth in custody to youth at SMJH (17) and LPBC (33). After dental, there were 47 appointments related to one youth that required two outpatient surgeries at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, multiple follow up visits and twice-weekly occupational therapy visits.

Pharmaceutical Services

Wellpath partners with CorrectRx Pharmacy to provide pharmaceutical services for the juvenile facilities. Wellpath and Behavioral Wellness follow the Wellpath and Medi-Cal formulary to ensure youth are continued on their medications at intake without delay.

There were 17,294 doses of medication administered during contract year four by nursing or health trained Probation staff when medical is not on-site. SMJH has a daily average population of 17 youth in custody. At least once during the month 24% of youth took mental health medication, 59% a prescription medication (non-mental health) and 100% an over the counter medication (OTC). At LPBC, at least once during the month 55% youth took mental health medications, 36% a prescription medication (non-mental health) and 100% took an OTC medication. The most common mental health medications are medications for Attention Deficit medications and insomnia. Non-mental health medications were acne medications, allergy medications and antibiotics. The most commonly used OTC medications are medications for acne, dry skin and allergies.

Wellpath had quarterly pharmacy inspections conducted by a contracted local Pharmacist. There were not any deficiencies noted for contract year four.

In-Custody Deaths

In contract year four, there were no in-custody deaths.

Risk Management

There was no writs or adverse medical events at the juvenile facilities. In year four, there were no medical grievances filed by youth.

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

In year four, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care conducted our first NCCHC accreditation inspection. Prior to the NCCHC inspection, the juvenile facilities were accredited continuously for over 15 years by the Institute of Medical Quality. Our survey took place September 30 and October 1 of 2020. We were one of the first correctional sites to encounter a hybrid style of the accreditation survey. Due to the pandemic, we had an on-site surveyor who was the nursing lead. The physician and lead surveyor met with our teams via zoom over two days.

Our juvenile sites received full accreditation after the survey; meeting **100%** of both essential and important standards.

Service Level Agreements

Wellpath is audited on a quarterly basis by the Santa Barbara Public Health Department to evaluate for compliance of service level agreements with Probation. There were no corrective actions needed for year four. Please see Exhibit A for our yearly summary from Public Health. Wellpath will continue with the current SLA's outlined in our contract.

Pandemic Response

In early January of 2020, the World Health Organization announced that there was an unknown coronavirus illness circulating in Wuhan, China. Shortly after, Wellpath and Probation began conversations about possible community scenarios and our facilities' response to a possible pandemic.

In early March of 2020, Probation and Wellpath with input from the Santa Barbara Public Health Department and other partners began formal discussions to create a COVID-19 response plan for the detention facilities. On March 13, our initial version of our COVID-19 Management Plan was implemented at the detention facilities. This plan outlined several important procedures to protect youth, staff and the community based on COVID-19 transmission within the state and county. These procedures addressed prevention of introduction of COVID-19 into the facility by staff, youth or visitors and the response to potential cases within the facility. Modifications were made to intake procedures, screening and identification of symptomatic or exposed persons, procedures for suspected or known COVID-19 cases, procedures for exposed persons, cleaning and disinfecting spaces, social distancing, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for different situations and limitations of movement of youth, staff and visitors within and outside the facility. Wellpath provided education to staff and youth on COVID-19, our new COVID-19 plan and training on the proper use of PPE.

Within contract year four, we had a total of **10** youth test positive for COVID-19. The facility encountered its first positive COVID-19 case in early July when a youth tested positive within the intake unit on his day 14-post admission COVID-19 test. Because of this positive case, Wellpath worked with Santa Barbara County Disease Control to complete contact tracing of exposed youth and staff. Because of this tracing, **three** other youth and **one** custody staff were identified as positive for COVID-19. Appropriate isolation for positive cases and quarantining of exposed youth resulted in no further COVID-19 cases from this exposure. After this outbreak, intake procedures were modified to include testing at intake and limit staff movement within the facility. This was the only instance where transmission of COVID-19 happened within the facility. All other six subsequent cases among youth were

detected at intake and were isolated before exposure to other youth or staff. This is in large part due to our COVID-19 plan and the diligence of Probation and Wellpath staff on ensuring protocols were followed as written.

Throughout this pandemic, Probation and Wellpath staff consistently refined policies and procedures and worked collaboratively to ensure for the safety of all youth, staff and visitors. Although the facility encountered positive cases during the course of this pandemic, staffs quick responses likely prevented the burden of COVID-19 infection from becoming larger and infecting the entire facility.

When the COVID-19 vaccine was developed, Wellpath worked with the PHD to ensure that frontline healthcare workers received the vaccination followed by correctional frontline staff and support staff. Our first COVID-19 vaccine clinic was on January 13, 2021 with multiple subsequent vaccine clinics since then. We were able to vaccinate 174 staff including Wellpath, Behavioral Wellness, Probation and educational staff. As previously stated, our youth were not eligible in contract year four to receive the vaccine due to limitations in the Emergency Use Authorization which stated vaccines were for persons 18 years and older. We have begun vaccinating youth in contract year five. We continue to offer vaccine for staff if needed.

We continue to work together with the Probation to modify policies and procedures as the pandemic lessons and restrictions can be loosened per the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. Our partnership with Public Health and the Health Officer has ensured that we are up to date with recommendations. We are extremely proud of our efforts and are continually looking for ways to improve our processes.





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Wellpath Medical Record Review Summary

Public Health Primary Care & Family Health Staff have been auditing Wellpath (CFMG) medical records at both the Probation Department and the Jail on a quarterly basis. In addition the PCFH Medical Director has been attending the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meetings regularly per the service level agreement (SLA).

The medical records are reviewed based upon the performance measures identified in the service level agreement. After the first year of audits, Wellpath Medical staff, along with jail and probation staff, worked to identify measures that would be more meaningful and indicative of the health status of the population served. Probation and the Jail departments selected slightly different measures as their populations have different needs. The current measures are identified in the CFMG Annual report SLA. They cover a wide range of issues, ranging from timely health assessments, identification and continuation of essential or psychiatric medications upon intake, ensuring chronic care needs are being addressed and immunizations are up to date. We are also tracking the assessment TB status.

Wellpath staff, the Sheriff's Dept., and the inmates, faced many challenges in 2020, including: quarantines, Covid testing, outbreaks and immunizations. Despite these challenges, CFMG has continued perform very well on audits of both Probation and Jail medical records. Well Path has been provided all the audit results to date.

CFMG and the PCFH auditing staff continue to work together to identify areas for improvement in the measures.

General recommendations:

1. The current measures appear appropriate and relevant, and the PCFH recommendation is to continue with these measures for the next year.
2. Wellpath could enrich their quality improvement program by working with their EMR/IT department to develop reports that support their quality goals.

