



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: October 14, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director 
Department of Behavioral Wellness

Contact: Laura Zeitz, RN, Assistant Director, Inpatient, Crisis, Long
Term Care, Justice and Housing
Chris Ribeiro, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Services Agreement with PATH for Transitional Housing and Ancillary Services for
Fiscal Year 2025–26**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **PATH** (not a local vendor) for the provision of transitional housing and ancillary services for a maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$239,200** for the period of July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025;
- 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 and make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Sections 20 and 26 of the Agreement, respectively; reallocate funds between funding sources per Exhibit B-1; and amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E-1, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board of Supervisor's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to its ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are governmental funding

mechanisms and/or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Chair to approve and ratify a new agreement with PATH for the provision of transitional housing and ancillary services for Behavioral Wellness (BWell) clients with severe mental illness and housing insecurity, with a location in Santa Barbara First District, for fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to meet its services mandate to adults, adolescents, and older adults facing housing insecurity.

Discussion:

PATH has had continuous service agreements with BWell since 2015. PATH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to provide shelter, housing, and related services to the homeless with a goal of ending homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. The FY 2025-26 PATH agreement will provide shelter housing for BWell clients who are experiencing homelessness and have severe mental health issues.

PATH will wind down their services in Santa Barbara, concluding operations on December 31, 2025. PATH is in the process of selling its building to the City of Santa Barbara. The City is working to identify a provider to take over PATH's services, and both the City and PATH have indicated that service delivery will continue without interruption during the transition.

BWell is also asking for delegation of authority for the Director of BWell or designee to authorize suspension, delay, or interruption of services under the Agreement for convenience and make immaterial changes, along with reallocating funds between funding sources and to amend the program goals, outcomes, and measures per Exhibit E, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board of Supervisor's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to its ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part, through contracted providers, including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) like PATH. PATH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to provide shelter, housing, and services related to the homeless with a goal of ending homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. PATH has been working toward this mission since 1984 and provides housing and supportive services in 22 locations from San Diego to San Luis Obispo.

The Agreement with PATH makes shelter beds available for clients who are homeless and those with severe mental health issues. Beginning July 1, 2025, PATH will reserve 17 beds for BWell clients. Funding for the beds is provided by Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), which was approved in July 2024. The County will guarantee payment for the 17 beds regardless of actual bed utilization. Beds in excess of 17 will be paid at the daily rate only if occupied, up to a maximum of 20 beds/day.

All County client referrals will be coordinated through BWell's designated staff, which includes, but is not limited to, Homeless Outreach Worker staff. PATH may refer clients to County-funded beds, but must verify with BWell staff that the client has an open case record with BWell before placement.

The Agreement also requires PATH to provide the following ancillary services to qualifying BWell clients:

- Monitoring clients for physical health, dental, and vision issues;
- Assisting clients with personal hygiene;

- Assisting clients with accessing community support and resources;
- Providing meals, a shower facility, a laundry facility, and mail and locker services; and
- Coordinating housing and employment services with an on-site homeless services case manager and/or other behavioral health service providers.

Performance Measure:

In the current fiscal year through the third quarter, PATH has maintained an average of 439 guests between July 2024 and March 2025, with their largest guest count reaching 488 in November 2024, with an average of 16.27 nights stayed, and remained consistent with a count of 486 through January 2025, with an average of 15.68 nights stayed. PATH's total number of present guests in the 9 months totaled 3,951 guests, having been provided services with an average of 14.43 nights stayed.

PATH served 58 unique guests across 62 placements/stays in the BWell contracted beds. The average length of guest stay for guests who exited during the fiscal year was 77.7 days. The average length of stay for current guests through June 30, 2025, is 169.7 days. During the fiscal year, 47 guests exited a PATH shelter bed.

The guests PATH provides services for are a very challenging population who are dealing with severe mental illness, poverty, and housing insecurity. Of the 47 guests who exited a PATH Shelter bed during the fiscal year:

- BWell utilized an average of 14 beds per month.
- 57% exited to homelessness (including a different shelter), with a goal of $\leq 50\%$.
- 17% moved into temporary, permanent housing or to other destinations, with a goal of $\geq 25\%$.
- 26% exited to an institution (jail, treatment facility, hospital), with a goal of $\leq 25\%$.

Contract Renewals:

BWell first contracted with PATH in FY 2015-16. The most recent contract with PATH was for FY 2024-25. During FY 2024-25, PATH provided shelter beds, meals, and assistance with activities of daily living to an average of 439 guests a month.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

This contract is funded by a combination of the 1991 State Realignment and the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) grant funding. State realignment will cover 12 beds, with BHBH funding covering the additional 5 guaranteed beds and any additional beds beyond the 17 guaranteed beds. These funding sources were included in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
State	\$143,520	\$143,520
BHBH Grant	\$95,680	\$95,680
Total	\$239,200	\$239,200

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) Minute Order and (1) complete executed Contract to Denise Morales dmorales@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – PATH FY 2025-26 BC

Page 4 of 4

Contact Information:

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