



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 18, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 681-5220
Contact Info: Suzanne Grimmesey, Chief Quality Care and Strategy Officer, 681-5289

SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – FY 18-19 Ortiz Schneider Interpreting and Translation Contract PO to BC

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 an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **Ortiz Schneider Interpreting and Translation**, a California Corporation, (a local vendor) to provide interpretation and translation services to the Department of Behavioral Wellness clients, for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$250,000** for FY 18-19 through June 30, 2019, inclusive of \$199,999 under Purchase Order CN22314 but which otherwise cancels, nullifies, and supersedes Purchase Order CN22314.
- b. Determine that these activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The above referenced item is on the Board’s agenda to request approval to increase the contract maximum amount for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 due to an unanticipated increase in service needs. Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to continue to provide mandated interpretation and translation services to Department of Behavioral Wellness (Behavioral Wellness) clients and their families who are non-English speaking.

Background:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires recipients of federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to make their programs, services, and activities accessible to eligible persons with language support needs. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) beneficiaries form a substantial portion of individuals encountered within Medi-Cal, a mandated target population for Behavioral Wellness. With the implementation of the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Managed Care Final Rule, mental health systems of care must provide interpretation services in all languages free of charge to beneficiaries. [Regulatory citation: 42 CFR §438.10(d)(2).]

The Department of Behavioral Wellness utilizes Ortiz Schneider Interpreting and Translation, a local vendor, for the provision of in-person interpretation services for beneficiaries with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and their families. The availability of language services ensures equitable access to behavioral health services and meaningful engagement in treatment, and helps reduce disparities in outcomes for historically underserved and marginalized communities. Since expanding in-person interpreter services in 2017, interpreter utilization has steadily increased to meet LEP needs, primarily for Spanish- and Mixteco-speaking beneficiaries. Behavioral Wellness has also observed that a significant proportion of minor beneficiaries have at least one LEP parent or guardian who is involved and/or responsible for the minor’s behavioral health care. This is supported by data that demonstrates children’s psychiatry utilizes 61% of all in-person interpreter services. Due to the specialization and complexity of treatments and services provided, including behavioral health concepts and terminology that the general public may be unfamiliar with, ensuring a skilled, professional interpreter is available to facilitate communication and serve as a cultural broker is critical to the health and recovery of LEP beneficiaries and their families.

Approval will ensure the continued provision of high-quality, effective and necessary language services critical to accessing behavioral health services for beneficiaries with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and their families.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY18-19 Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 125,000.00		
Federal	\$ 125,000.00		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: The above referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources are included in the FY 2018-2019 Adopted Budget and the FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

There is a risk that without services from the above vendor, Behavioral Wellness will not meet Federal regulatory requirements and contractual obligations set by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Direct risks include limiting in-person interpreter services for LEP beneficiaries and their families, a population that is historically underserved and facing significant disparities in care, including poorer outcomes and higher mortality rates.

Special Instructions:

Please return one scanned (1) Minute Order to the Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@santa-barbara.ca.us and to Amber Foschaar at: cfoschaar@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Ortiz Schneider FY 18-19 Board Contract

Attachment B: Ortiz Schneider FY 18-19 Purchase Order executed (CN22314)

Authored by:

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