



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: December 7, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Acting Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Staffing Contract - LocumTenens.com, LLC FY 2020-2022
Second Amendment

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 a Second Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with **LocumTenens.com, LLC** (not a local vendor), to update the agreement to add infectious disease control language for inpatient services as required by County, State, and Federal requirements, add hourly rates for inpatient locum tenens staff, and increase the Agreement amount by \$170,000, for a new total Maximum Agreement Value not to exceed **\$2,300,000**, inclusive of \$1,230,000 for FY 20-21 and \$1,070,000 for FY 21-22, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022;
- B. Delegate to the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee the authority to make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 25 of the Agreement without requiring formal amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do 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 above-referenced agreement is on the agenda to request approval of the Second Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with LocumTenens.com, LLC to update required infectious disease control language for inpatient services, add hourly rates for inpatient locum tenens staff, and increase the Agreement amount by \$170,000, for a new total Maximum Agreement Value not to exceed **\$2,300,000**, inclusive of \$1,230,000 for FY 20-21 and \$1,070,000 for FY 21-22, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. Additionally, the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests delegation of authority to the Director of BWell or designee to make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 25 of the Agreement without requiring formal amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time. Approval of the recommended action will allow the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to task LocumTenens.com, LLC to refer professionals who can provide mandated and greatly needed psychiatry services for not only outpatient services, but also acute inpatient services within the system of care.

Background:

BWell provides a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder services to Santa Barbara County residents, including psychiatric and nursing services at its County facilities. Across the nation, there is an ongoing shortage of psychiatric and nursing services. BWell has experienced ongoing challenges that mirror the national challenges of attracting and retaining qualified psychiatrists to work at BWell facilities. BWell currently uses locum tenens temporary physicians to fill ongoing needs for psychiatric staff at outpatient facilities.

LocumTenens.com, LLC provides temporary psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants to Behavioral Wellness clinics and other Behavioral Wellness programs, as needed. These temporary staff provide mandated psychiatric services such as diagnostic evaluations; medication evaluations; prescriptions for psychiatric medications; review, revision, and approval of client assessments; and participation in the development, review, revision, and approval of client treatment plans.

Locum tenens staff hired through LocumTenens.com, LLC are currently placed only at outpatient facilities, and the existing Agreement with LocumTenens.com, LLC only defines hourly rates for outpatient staff. The Agreement also lacks the infectious disease control requirements mandated for inpatient care. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BWell to utilize qualified locum tenens staff at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), an inpatient facility, and fulfill upcoming need for weekend staff at the PHF. An increase in the Maximum Agreement Value is necessary to accommodate the additional cost of hiring locum tenens staff for the PHF, as the rates for inpatient staff are higher than those of their outpatient counterparts.

Performance Outcomes

To date for FY 21-22, BWell has utilized two (2) professionals provided by LocumTenens.com, LLC, all of whom are psychiatrists. These locum tenens professionals are providing services throughout the County at various programs including adult services and the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program. The staffing professionals are all performing on par with the County's civil service providers. They provide services according to generally accepted practices, participate in medical staff meetings, are part of medical staff meeting peer review, and respond appropriately to communications and clinical feedback.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total FY 20-21 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 21-22 Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 21-22</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 615,000	\$ 535,000	\$ 1,150,000
Federal	\$ 615,000	\$ 535,000	\$ 1,150,000
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 1,230,000	\$ 1,070,000	\$ 2,300,000

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources are included in the FY 20-21 and FY 21-22 Adopted Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

With any contractor providing temporary staffing services, there is a risk that temporary personnel will make errors, engage in misconduct, or be negligent in the performance of assigned duties. BWell may cancel an assignment for cause or convenience, and the contractor provides professional liability insurance for the professionals to mitigate these risks. In addition, the County pays only the contractor’s fees when the County utilizes a healthcare professional referred by the contractor; there are no monthly fees attached to this agreement.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed contract and one (1) minute order to bethle@sbcwell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: LocumTenens.com FY 20-22 BC Second Amendment
- Attachment B: LocumTenens.com FY 20-22 BC First Amendment
- Attachment C: LocumTenens.com FY 20-22 Original Agreement (BC #20-026)

Authored by:

B. Le