



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 28, 2022
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) Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director
Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220

SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Staffing Contract Renewal – Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc. FY 2022-2024

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 Independent Contractor with **Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc.** (not a local vendor) for the provision of psychiatry and nursing staffing services for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2024, for a maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$3,400,000**, inclusive of \$1,700,000 per year, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024;
- 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 per Section 20 of the Agreement and make immaterial changes to the Agreement pursuant to Section 26 of the Agreement, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an 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 are 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 and authorization to renew the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc. (Sterling) for FY 2022-2024, for a total Maximum Agreement Value not to exceed \$3,400,000 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests delegation of authority to the Director of BWell or designee to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 20 of the Agreement and make immaterial changes to the Agreement pursuant to Section 26 of the Agreement, all without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board's approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time. Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) to task Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, Inc. to refer professionals who can provide mandated and greatly needed psychiatry and nursing 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 and nursing staff to fill ongoing needs for psychiatric staff at outpatient facilities and the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF).

Sterling is a collaborative of skilled medical professionals that provides psychiatrists and nurse practitioners to backfill vacancies at the PHF, 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.

Performance Measure:

Sterling's goal is to provide psychiatrist and nurse practitioner staff according to the following outcomes and measures:

- Staff productivity should be 50% of time for client services and documented 70% of time.
- Staff attendance is required at all trainings.
- Notes should be finalized within 24 hours for acute services and 72 hours for general services.

Performance Outcomes:

BWell is currently utilizing four (4) professionals (2.5 FTE) provided by Sterling Care Psychiatric Group, inclusive of two (2) Psychiatrists and two (2) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners. These locum tenens professionals are providing services throughout the County at Behavioral Wellness clinics and other Behavioral Wellness programs. 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 22-23</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 23-24</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>Total FY 22-24</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,700,000
Federal	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,700,000
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 3,400,000

Narrative: The above referenced contracts are funded by State and Federal funds. The funding sources were included in the FY 2022-2023 Proposed Budget. The funding sources for FY 2023-2024 will be included in the Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024, and funding is contingent upon Board approval.

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. The Agreement allows Behavioral Wellness to terminate individual temporary staff for cause and requires that the agency provide Professional Liability insurance to mitigate these risks.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) complete executed contract and one (1) minute order to bethle@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Sterling Care Psychiatric Group FY 22-24 BC

Authored by:

B. Le