



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: July 12, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
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: Suzanne Grimmesey, MFT, PIO/Chief of Strategy and
Community Engagement, Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Agreement - Community Action
Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify for Fiscal Year (FY)
2022 - 2024

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 and authorize the Chair to execute a multiyear Agreement for Services with **Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify** (CommUnify), a California nonprofit corporation (a local vendor), for the provision of an American Rescue Plan Act (APRA)-funded countywide community wellness program for a Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$300,000**, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 (Attachment A);
- 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 21 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 27 of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibit B-1, 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 authority 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:

This item is on the agenda to request the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize the Chair to execute a multi-year Agreement with CommUnify for the provision of an ARPA-funded countywide community wellness program for a Maximum Contract Amount not to exceed **\$300,000** for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. In addition, Behavioral Wellness (BWell) requests that the Board delegate to the Director of or designee, the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the Agreement for convenience per Section 21 of the Agreement; make immaterial changes to the Agreement per Section 27 of the Agreement; authorize additional services per Exhibit B-1, 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 authority to rescind this delegated authority at any time.

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic intensified behavioral health needs across the state, created new barriers for people with mental illness and substance use disorders and increased the prevalence of mental health conditions. On March 11, 2021, ARPA was signed into law and established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, which provides support to county governments, among others, in responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those to behavioral health. The County received ARPA SLFRF funds through the County Executive Office (CEO).

In March 2022, BWell was tasked by the County's CEO to conduct a Request for Proposal to fund Community Pandemic Impact Partnership Projects, Community Action (Trained Community Gatekeepers) and Mental Health Education and Skill Development programs with ARPA SLFRF funds. On April 1, 2022, BWell awarded CommUnify a Notice of Intent to Award in the amount of \$300,000 to implement the Community Action (Trained Community Gatekeepers) through its Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

With SLFRF funds, CommUnify will train a trusted network of Head Start personnel and parent peers to help Head Start/Early Head Start parents/guardians and their extended families identify symptoms and signs of mental health issues, reduce stigma about mental health, and seek help, as needed, for mental health issues that have arisen or worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Head Start/Early Head Start program personnel in particular provide a comprehensive understanding and deep connection with the target population for the proposed project, and they operate 24 Head Start and Early Head Start in communities across the county-from hyper-rural New Cuyama to the cities of Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. CommUnify will reach over 800 low-income families, parents, young adults and Hispanic families annually, all of whom have disproportionately borne a greater burden of the stress and impact of the pandemic.

CommUnify currently has an agreement with BWell to deliver mental health services (MHS), which the Board approved on May 24, 2022. However, BWell requests establishing a separate Agreement for the delivery of these Community Action – Trained Community Gatekeepers services due to differing funding requirements.

Performance Measure:

The Program goals are the following:

1. To increase community capacity by providing community gatekeepers, community members, and key industries/businesses evidence-based mental health training.

Outcomes:

- a. Number of community organizations reached ≥ 30 ;
 - b. Number of community trainings;
 - c. Number of individual community gatekeepers trained; and
 - d. Training Satisfaction.
2. To improve knowledge and awareness of available services and supports.

Outcomes:

- a. Pre- and post- mental health and substance use knowledge surveys.
3. To reduce stigma surrounding behavioral health needs.

Outcomes:

- a. Pre- and post- stigma surveys.
4. To increase access to and utilization of evidence-based services with broad reach of community members.

Outcomes:

- a. Number of at-risk individuals screened; and
- b. Number of individuals referred to community services and support.

5. To address disparities by behavioral health trainings and services for diverse communities.

Outcomes:

- a. Number (%) of trainings tailored to underserved communities;
- b. Number of gatekeepers trained from underserved communities; and
- c. Number of individuals from underserved communities referred to community services and support.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total Cost FY 22-24</u>
General Fund	
State	
Federal	
Fees	
Other: APRA Federal Grant CFDA 21.027	\$ 300,000.00
Total	\$ 300,000.00

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by ARPA SLFRF through June 30, 2024. Prior to the expiration of this funding, BWell will identify new possible funding streams to sustain the delivery of these services.

Key Contract Risks:

As with any contract funded by State and Federal sources, there is a risk of future audit disallowances and repayments through the Federal auditing process. This contract includes language allowing the County to seek any legal remedy for the repayment of any amounts disallowed in audit findings, minimizing financial risks to the County.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) signature page and (1) Minute Order to Denise Morales at dmorales@sbcbswell.org and the BWell Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: CommUnify FY 22-24 BC APRA SLFRF

Authored by:

D. Morales