



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: September 12, 2023
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) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: John Doyel, MA, LAADC, Assistant Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: California Department of Health Care Services California Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved Planning and Capacity Building Program (PATH Justice-Involved Round 3) Grant Agreement

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 Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness, or designee, to execute the California Providing Access to Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved Planning and Capacity Building Program Acknowledgement of Grant Terms and Conditions to receive a provisional grant award in the amount of **\$1,284,162** from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide behavioral health linkages, prerelease care coordination, and discharge planning for Medi-Cal clients receiving behavioral health services in custody; and
- b) Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which 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:

This item is currently before the Board of Supervisors for authorization to execute a grant agreement and accept a provisional award in the amount of \$1,284,162 from DHCS for Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative Capacity Building Program PATH funding (PATH Justice-Involved Round 3). PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 provides implementation grants to county jails, youth correctional facilities, and county behavioral health agencies for linkage services to build bridges to community-based care for justice involved (JI) Medi-Cal members, offering services to stabilize their condition(s) and establishing a re-Good Samaritan Shelter FY 23-27 BL

entry plan for community-based care prior to release. Funding is intended to support eligible entities as they stand-up processes, protocols, and information technology system modifications that are necessary to implement or modify processes to support the provision of pre-release Medi-Cal services.

Background:

On January 26, 2023, DHCS received federal approval under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) 1115 Demonstration PATH capacity-building funds to support the Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative. Through this effort, DHCS received approval to disseminate up to \$410 million in capacity-building funds to support the planning and implementation of pre-release and reentry services in the 90 days prior to an individual's release into the community. This demonstration is part of California's comprehensive initiative to improve physical and behavioral health care for the JI population, ensuring continuity of Medi-Cal coverage and access to care for JI populations. With access to pre-release Medi-Cal services, California will directly test and evaluate its expectation that providing targeted services to Medi-Cal-eligible individuals prior to release will avert the unnecessary use of inpatient hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, emergency departments and other forms of costly and inefficient care that otherwise would be paid for by Medi-Cal. The PATH Justice-Involved Round 3 provides funding to support the planning and implementation of the provision of targeted pre-release Medi-Cal services to individuals in State prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities. PATH funds are available to support investments in personnel, capacity, and/or IT systems that are needed for collaborative planning and implementation in order to effectuate pre-release service processes.

On July 17, 2023, the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) submitted an application for PATH Justice-Involved Round 3. On July 22, 2023, BWell received notice from DHCS' contracted PATH 3 grant manager, Public Consulting Group, of the approval of a provisional award amount of \$1,284,162. The finalization of the funding allocation is dependent on submitting a capacity building comprehensive Implementation Plan and associated budget, due no more than 180 days (six months) after initial funding is received, or by March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. BWell will receive 10% of the maximum awarded amount within 45 days of grant agreement execution and an additional 60% of funding upon review and approval of the implementation plan due within 180 days from application approval. An additional 15% of funding will be received upon review and approval of the interim progress report, which documents how PATH funds are spent and is to be submitted when 50% of operational criteria have been successfully implemented. The remaining 15% portion of funding will be received upon review and approval of the final progress report due no later than 45 days after the agency has successfully implemented 100% of operational readiness requirements and received written approval from DHCS to go-live. Correctional facilities will be able to launch Medi-Cal pre-release services starting April 1, 2024, upon a demonstration of readiness consistent with DHCS requirements, and are mandated to implement Medi-Cal pre-release services by March 31, 2026.

BWell will utilize the PATH 3 grant funding to provide behavioral health linkages, prerelease care coordination, and discharge planning for Medi-Cal clients receiving behavioral health services in custody. In coordination with other PATH 3 recipients (awardees), the Santa Barbara Probation Department and Sheriff's Office, BWell will support regional collaborative planning and implementation efforts among Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs), providers, community-based organizations, county agencies, public hospitals, tribes, and other eligible entities to promote readiness for CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports. These services will include data sharing, release planning, transportation services, reentry professional-to-professional clinical handoffs, post-release follow up, and reporting and oversight, all required by PATH 3 regulations. BWell will use the funding to recruit and hire necessary staff to accomplish these efforts and will return to the Board with a salary resolution to add 2.0 FTE Case Worker legal positions. BWell will be able to sustain those staff through a combination of existing funding streams (e.g., Medi-Cal and through existing staff vacancies) once the term of the PATH

3 funding has ended. In doing so, BWell is committed to the Day Reporting Center (DRC) report and minimizing the number of incarcerated individuals with behavioral health issues.

The anticipated \$1,284,162 provisional award to BWell is dependent on submitting a capacity-building comprehensive Implementation Plan due to DHCS no more than 180 days after initial funding is received, or by March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. Once the Implementation Plan and associated budget is developed and approved by DHCS, BWell will return to the Board with a budget revision request to recognize the grant funds and increase appropriations to achieve the grant goals.

Performance Measure:

1. Implementation plan: BWell is required to submit an implementation plan detailing how it will use the PATH funding to implement the Operational Criteria for Medi-Cal pre-release services and submission of a detailed budget template that documents the amount of the funding requested and how the requested funding will be applied to different permissible uses. The implementation plan is due no later than 180 days (6 months) after the initial 10% of funds are disbursed.
2. Interim report: BWell is required to submit an interim progress report after successfully implementing 50% of its Operational Criteria, detailing how PATH funds were spent to date, and descriptions of how BWell implemented each Operational Criteria.
3. Final report: BWell is required to submit a final progress report detailing how PATH funds were spent and describing the final status of each Operational Criteria.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Grant Amount:
General Fund	
State	\$ 1,284,162
Federal	
Fees	
Other:	
Total	\$ 1,284,162

Narrative: BWell has been awarded a \$1,284,162 provisional grant for the development and implementation of a framework to enhance pre-release Medi-Cal services and reimbursements for adult clients in custody with behavioral health issues. This award is not required or expected to be expended in this fiscal year, and DHCS will provide prospective direction on expenditures timelines in forthcoming operational guidelines. Once the Implementation Plan and associated budget is developed and approved by DHCS, BWell will return to the Board with a budget revision request to recognize the grant funds and increase appropriations to achieve the grant goals. BWell will use the funding to recruit and hire necessary staff to accomplish these efforts and will return to the Board with a salary resolution to add 2.0 FTE Case Worker legal positions. BWell will be able to sustain those staff through a combination of existing funding streams (e.g., Medi-Cal and through existing staff vacancies) once the term of the PATH 3 funding has ended.

Key Contract Risks:

Acceptance of the funds requires Behavioral Wellness to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant award following approval of an Implementation Plan, including achieving goals and outcomes required

by DHCS. The grantor will perform monitoring and BWell would be responsible for any disallowances and may have to return unspent funds. BWell will mitigate these risks by setting up program specific accounting for the grant program and will include recoupment clauses in any agreements with subcontractors.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

Case Worker

FTEs:

2.0 FTE

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) minute order to Bethany Le at bethle@sbcbswell.org and to the BWell Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: State of California Department of Health Care Services Notice of Award

Attachment B: Path JI Round 3 Terms and Conditions

Authored by:

Bethany Le