



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: April 6, 2021
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 (805)681-5220
Contact Info: Chris Ribeiro, Chief Financial Officer
Department of Behavioral Wellness (805)681-5220

SUBJECT: **First Amendment to the Merced Behavioral Center Institute for Mental Disease Agreement FY 20-23**

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 the First Amendment to the Agreement for services of Independent Contractor (BC 20-116) with CF Merced Behavioral, LLC, a California limited liability company, dba **Merced Behavioral Center** (not a local vendor), an Institution for Mental Disease, to increase the FY 20-21 maximum contract amount by **\$220,000** for a total contract amount not to exceed **\$1,720,000** for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023; and
- B. Determine that the above action is a government fiscal activity, which does 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 item is on the agenda to request an increase in the total contract amount for Merced Behavioral Center (Merced) to cover expenses for fiscal year 2020-2021. The budget was developed to accommodate an average caseload for the year of 6-7 clients. Current caseload as of December 2020 is 10 clients. Caseload was anticipated to decrease with the opening of Champion Healing Center, Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) in Lompoc. Delay in the opening of the Champion Healing Center necessitates contract funding to increase for the current fiscal year.

BeWell provides a continuum of specialty mental health services to Santa Barbara County residents, in part through contracted providers. Contracts with facilities providing services at various levels of care are key to ensuring that the needs of clients are optimally met. Due to an increased demand for inpatient contracted long-term beds, BeWell needs to amend the contract maximum amount for FY 20-21. This amendment will be funded through existing IMD and Acute Hospital contract savings. Approval of the recommended actions will allow BeWell to continue to provide mandated mental health and ancillary services.

Background:

Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD): IMDs are facilities including hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental illness, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services. Due to the Federal IMD Exclusion, these services are not reimbursable by Medi-Cal for clients between the ages of 21 and 65. There are a limited number of these highly structured residential treatment services in California. BeWell contracts with IMDs that are licensed as Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities with Special Treatment Patches, and Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers. BeWell also contracts with IMD-alternative facilities, which are unlocked facilities providing highly structural residential programs for clients transitioning out of IMDs.

Merced Behavioral Center (Merced), located in Merced County, provides intensive psychiatric mental health treatment, medical assessment, diagnosis, and monitoring in a locked setting.

Performance Outcomes:

Merced is meeting goals with client caseload. The current funding projections for Merced are based on a client caseload that will decrease from 12 at the beginning of the current Fiscal Year to 6 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY 20-21 Cost	FY 21-22 Cost	FY 22-23 Cost	Overall Cost FY 20-23
General Fund				
State	\$ 720,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 720,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,720,000.00

Narrative: The above-referenced contract is funded by State funds. The recommended increased amount will be funded through existing IMD and Acute Hospital contract savings.

Key Contract Risks:

There is risk that the number of contracted IMD and IMD-alternative beds may increase beyond what BeWell has projected. In this case, BeWell will return to the Board of Supervisors to request an increase to the contract maximum where needed.

Special Instructions:

Please send one (1) complete copy of the executed amendment and one (1) minute order to: abello@co.santa-barbara.ca.us and the BeWell Contracts Division at bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Merced Behavioral Center FY 20-23 AM 1

Attachment B: Merced Behavioral Center FY 20-23 BC 20-116

Authored by:

Ana Bello