



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bill Ayub
Sheriff
Eric Dowd
Undersheriff

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October 11, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Subject: **Approval of, and Authorization for the Sheriff to Sign, a Memorandum of Understanding Between the County of Ventura and California Health and Recovery Solutions, P.C. in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$200,000 For the First Year, With a Four and a Half Percent Annual Increase for Up to Three Additional Years, for Services Related to the Early Access and Stabilization Services Program; and Adoption of a Resolution Adding One Fixed-Term Deputy Sheriff Allocation to the Detention Services Division, Pre-Trial Detention Facility, for the Purpose of Providing Security for the Program. (RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.)**

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve, and authorize the Sheriff to sign, the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California Health and Recovery Solutions, P.C. (CHRS), in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000 for the first year, for a two-year period, for services related to the Early Access and Stabilization Services (EASS) program, with the MOU subject to automatic renewal after the two-year period for two (2) additional one (1) year terms. After the first year a four and a half (4.5) percent increase shall be applied to each subsequent year unless parties mutually agree to amend this MOU.
2. Adopt a Resolution adding the following fixed-term position allocation within the Detention Services Division #2550, Pre-Trial Detention Facility for the purpose of staffing the expanded EASS program, effective October 11, 2022.

Job Code	Description	Business Unit	Dept. (Unit)	FTE	Compensation Frequency	HRLY MIN.- HRLY MAX.
00550	Fixed Term- Deputy Sheriff	SHFVC	2553	1.0	Hourly	\$40.243614 - \$56.184468

3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to adjust appropriations and unanticipated revenue as follows within the Sheriff's Detention Administration, Division 2550, Unit 2553 (requires 4/5th vote):

INCREASE Intergovernmental Revenue \$ 144,624

INCREASE Salaries and Benefits \$ 144,624

*Related budget adjustments in future fiscal years will be included with the annual budget process.

Fiscal Impact Statement:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: Department of State Hospitals
Funding Match Required: None
Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:

	<u>FY2022-23</u>	<u>FY2023-24</u>
Revenues:	\$ 144,624	\$ 209,000
Costs		
Direct	\$ 144,624	\$ 209,000
Indirect Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect - County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 144,624	\$ 209,000
Net County Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projection:

FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for Sheriff's Detention Services – Division 2550

	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Variance
Appropriations	\$126,097,955	\$129,879,286	\$129,879,286	0
Revenue	\$59,498,174	\$62,331,306	\$62,331,306	0
Net Cost	\$66,599,781	\$67,547,980	\$67,547,980	0

Discussion:

There is widespread recognition that there is a lengthy waitlist of patients in California deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) under Penal Code section 1370, thereby causing an extended wait time for admission to a Jail Based Competency Treatment (JBCT) program. For that reason, the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) has contracted with CHRS to provide restoration services virtually, in-person, or a combination thereof for felony IST patients who are awaiting placement in a JBCT or DSH program (Exhibit 1). The services are proposed as Early Access and Stabilization Services (EASS), and patients who are not restored to competency in the EASS program will be admitted to a JBCT program.

CHRS is a division of Wellpath, which has more than 20 years of experience operating civil and forensic state hospitals, inpatient and residential treatment facilities, sex offender treatment, and competency restoration programs across the nation. Each facility provides safe, therapeutic environments that foster recovery through trauma-informed care, evidence-based programs, and community partnerships designed to improve the continuity of care.

The EASS program engages inmates deemed incompetent to stand trial at a very early stage and brings appropriate and effective individualized services to those individuals. Those who are restored to competency can quickly re-engage in the justice process while maintaining continuity of social support due to proximity of family and friends. Patients who are not restored to competency in the EASS program will be admitted to a JBCT program or DSH as deemed appropriate by DSH staff.

The main goals of the EASS program include psychiatric stability, mental health treatment, medication management, and restoration to competency. Patients will receive individual sessions focused on competency and court-related concepts, and if appropriate, competency restoration groups. The treatment team will be comprised of nursing, psychiatry, mental health clinician, and psychologist professionals to provide evaluations.

The benefits of the program for the patients include access to treatment much more quickly than awaiting admission to a JBCT program, expeditious stabilization of medication, and more prompt provisions of due process. Patients will have a continuity of medical, mental health, and milieu care in the jail if they transition into a JBCT bed. This would also allow increased opportunity for social support due to proximity of family and friends.

Having a consistent treatment team initiate services at the onset will build and promote wellness and better support the individual as they move toward restoration. Initiating treatment and medications when a patient becomes IST will also reduce the strain on the detention facility and staff.

DSH in its contract with CHRS (Exhibit 1) has agreed to compensate County Sheriffs' Offices for costs related, but not limited to, patient escorting to medication pass and

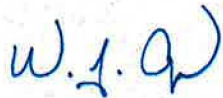
administration of psychotropic medications, EASS clinical services, psychological assessments, and competency services. CHRS will reimburse the Sheriff's Office on a monthly basis, an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$200,000 in the first year, for these services. The not-to-exceed amount will increase annually by 4.5% to ensure net County costs remain zero.

Accordingly, we ask that your Board approve and authorize the Sheriff to enter into the MOU with CHRS attached as Exhibit 2, which reimburses the Sheriff's Office for the custody deputy costs for two years. The MOU shall automatically renew for two additional one-year terms, unless CHRS delivers written notice to the County that the DSH agreement (Exhibit 1) has been terminated, or the Sheriff's Office unilaterally terminates the agreement. Additionally, we ask that your Board adopt a resolution adding one fixed-term Deputy Sheriff allocation to provide staffing for the EASS Program. Should the EASS contract with CHRS be terminated at any point in the future, the requested Deputy Sheriff allocation would be abrogated. We further ask your Board to authorize the Auditor-Controller to process all the necessary accounting transactions.

The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, and the Auditor Controller have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Assistant Sheriff Rob Davidson at 654-2305.

Author – Captain Timothy Ragan
Fiscal – Rodolfo Cruz

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. J. Ayub".

Bill Ayub
Sheriff

Attachment: Exhibit 1 - Signed DSH-CHRS Contract
Exhibit 2 - Early Access and Stabilization Services Memorandum of Understanding
Exhibit 3 - Signed Early Access and Stabilization Services HIPAA Memorandum of Understanding
Resolution – EASS Deputy