

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Behavioral Health	(2) MEETING DATE 8/25/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cindy Collins, ASM, 788-2932; Amy Olson, ASO II, 781-4729	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a contract for calendar years 2015 and 2016 with Hossein Akhavan, M.D. at the rate of \$160 per hour to provide medical services for Mental Health patients. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a contract for calendar years 2015 and 2016 with Hossein Akhavan, M.D. at the rate of \$160 per hour to provide medical services for Mental Health patients.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Medi-Cal, Realignment	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$60,170	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$168,935	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director
Anne Robin, Behavioral Health Administrator

DATE: 8/25/2015

SUBJECT: Request to approve a contract for calendar years 2015 and 2016 with Hossein Akhavan, M.D. at the rate of \$160 per hour to provide medical services for Mental Health patients. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a contract for calendar years 2015 and 2016 with Hossein Akhavan, M.D. at the rate of \$160 per hour to provide medical services for Mental Health patients.

DISCUSSION

Behavioral Health Services has a need for a medical doctor on a part-time contract basis at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) to provide limited medical duties including medical histories and physicals (H&P), and sick calls for clients at the PHF. Medical doctor services are necessary to ensure mandated medical services are provided to clients, as well as provision of medical supervision of the nurse practitioners at the PHF. Coverage is only required on a part-time basis which makes the use of a contract medical doctor the most effective method of providing necessary services as opposed to hiring a full or part time staff doctor who may not be able to cover the weekend, evening, or on-call duties that a contract doctor can.

The availability of a contract medical doctor to perform necessary medical duties allows for the flexibility to provide mandated services but puts the county under no obligation to utilize these services except as mandated. The contract medical doctor has proven to be an essential component in the Department's staffing plan for many years and will continue to be integral in the future. The previously contracted medical doctor resigned effective June 30, 2015. In the interim period, while the contract for Dr. Akhavan is processed, the department's currently contracted nurse practitioners have been providing H&P and sick call services to clients at the PHF with the oversight of the department's Medical Director. The arrival of Dr. Akhavan will alleviate the additional duties the Medical Director has taken on relating to nurse practitioner supervision at the PHF in the absence of a dedicated medical doctor. Typically it is not within the job description of the Medical Director to provide the mandated nurse practitioner supervision, and the cost for the Medical Director to provide this supervision is much higher than the medical doctor cost. Additionally, the nurse practitioners have been working extra shifts to cover vacant days normally covered by the PHF medical doctor. With the arrival of Dr. Akhavan, scheduling and continuity of service in the PHF will resume its regularity.

The term of this contract will be for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year as well as for the 2016 calendar.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contracts as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The rate of pay for the medical doctor will be \$160.00 per hour. Additional rates of pay, though used less frequently than hourly pay, include on-call shifts at \$169.33 per 12-hour shift and call-back hours at \$103.30 per hour. The FY 2015-16 budget for Behavioral Health includes an amount of \$168,935 in medical services for the PHF. This budgeted amount includes services provided by the currently contracted nurse practitioners as well as the medical doctor. Approximately \$60,170 of the budgeted \$168,935 (or 35.6%) will be spent on medical doctor services for the remainder of the 2015-16 fiscal year. By paying the medical doctor an hourly rate, instead of a "piece" rate as the previous medical doctor was paid,

it is anticipated there will be a slight cost savings, as well as an improvement in the quality of services provided, due to efficiencies of hourly work versus piece work for these particular services.

RESULTS

Medical services are an integral part of PHF operations, and a critical component to the overall effort to provide quality client care. The medical doctor is licensed and trained to provide examinations and prescribe the medications needed by mental health clients to help control medical symptoms. Without these services, Behavioral Health could not meet State mandates for medical support services or properly prescribe and monitor medications for medical conditions. Contracting with a medical doctor contributes to the County meeting legal staffing requirements 100% of the time.

During FY 2014-15, the previously contracted medical doctor provided a total of 250 H&Ps to 235 unique individuals and 395 total sick calls to 168 unique individuals. Providing medical doctor coverage at the PHF contributes to proper care and oversight of client treatment. Providing the most appropriate services to the clients increases the probability of positive treatment outcomes. Furthermore, positive treatment outcomes contribute to the wider County vision of a healthy and safe community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Dr. Akhavan Contract CY 2015 & 2016