

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Behavioral Health And Recovery Services BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-1

AGENDA DATE: August 30, 2016

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the Provision of Transitional Board and Care Services for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

---

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**No.** 2016-446

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

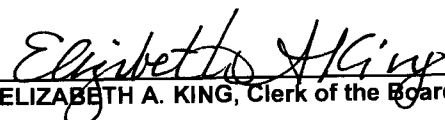
1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

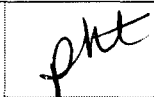
MOTION:


ATTEST:   
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Behavioral Health And Recovery Services      BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-1  
Urgent       Routine       AGENDA DATE: August 30, 2016



CEO CONCURRENCE: 

4/5 Vote Required: Yes       No

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the Provision of Transitional Board and Care Services for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve an amendment to the agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the provision of transitional board and care services for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.
2. Authorize the Interim Behavioral Health Director, or her designee, to sign the amendment with Ever Well Systems, LLC to provide transitional board and care services throughout the Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

**DISCUSSION:**

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) continues to be challenged with finding and securing adequate housing options for a majority of clients, but especially individuals who are most ill, on Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) involuntary conservatorship. The inadequate resource of readily available treatment and housing options often lead to extremely costly care when individuals wait in an acute psychiatric hospital, such as Doctor's Behavioral Health Center, for a bed to become available at a facility that can meet their immediate needs. BHRS needs to expand contracts with a variety of housing options, especially for Licensed Adult Residential board and care services that provide transitional care. Transitional care provides a level of care for conservatees to bridge the gap between the care and supervision a locked institutional setting provides and the care and supervision a basic board and care facility provides.

Over the past decade the County has experienced an 83% reduction in Licensed Adult Residential Board & Care homes. Due to the lack of board and care facilities across California, BHRS clients who have stabilized and are ready for discharge remain in an acute psychiatric hospital from 14 – 60 days waiting placement. In addition, BHRS continues to compete with other counties for the same beds. BHRS has an ethical and legal responsibility to place clients in the least restrictive, appropriately safe level of care factoring in cost effectiveness.

Adult Licensed Board and Care facilities with transitional care provide a low client to staff ratio to address individual residential needs. These services include structured programming, which assists residents in improving functional abilities. The programming includes, but is not limited to, the following areas: basic self-care including meals, medication monitoring, monitoring health and hygiene, interpersonal communication and conflict resolution, as well as social and recreational skills.

## Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the Provision of Transitional Board and Care Services for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

---

On May 15, 2016, BHRS entered into the initial Agreement with Ever Well Systems, LLC to provide transitional board and care services located at 4951 Eight Mile Road in Morada, California, at a rate for Level 1 Clients at \$150 per client per day and Level 2 Clients at \$175 per client per day, with a contract limit of \$85,000.00, for the initial contract (5/16-6/17). At the time, Ever Well had a limited number of beds available for these services and a conservative estimate based on limited bed availability was used in developing the contract limit. It was also anticipated Ever Well Integrated Health Care would achieve certification to become a mental health provider, which would allow them to bill Medi-cal directly for some of the care provided, i.e., medical services, MD, RN and clinical services; however, that did not occur as expected in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Ever Well plans to continue to pursue this certification and the Department is exploring ways to assist them with this effort. Based on this understanding, staff anticipated the need to amend the contract to increase the bed capacity.

In June 2016, BHRS had five individuals in an Acute Psychiatric hospital exceeding 21 days. These individuals were ready to be discharged, no longer requiring the care and supervision provided by an acute psychiatric hospital. The need to place these individuals in appropriate lower level care was a high priority for BHRS. Their confinement was not the least restrictive and the Department was paying for care that was no longer necessary. Ever Well had capacity for five additional clients and these individuals were placed at Ever Well.

The Department is requesting approval to amend the 2016-2017 Agreement with Ever Well Systems, LLC to ensure continuous availability of critically needed transitional board and care services. The recommended amendment would increase the agreement by \$515,615 from \$85,000 to \$600,675, and would allow BHRS to continue to use Ever Well Systems, LLC for the provision of Adult Residential board and care providing transitional services for clients with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). The increased contract would allow BHRS to serve on average 10 individuals per day per year.

### **POLICY ISSUE:**

Although the need for Adult Residential board and care with transitional services has been a priority for BHRS for many years, the Focus on Prevention efforts have highlighted the fact that appropriately housed individuals can better manage their mental health symptoms. Welfare and Institutions Code 5358 states conservatees should be placed in a suitable facility closest to their residence and in the least restrictive placement available and necessary to achieve the purpose of treatment.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Adopted Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 includes funding in the amount of \$85,000 for this agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC to provide transitional board and care services. The Department has sufficient appropriations and estimated revenue from 1991 Realignment (State) funding to absorb the increase of \$515,675 at the new contract maximum of \$600,675. There is no impact to the County General Fund.

Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the Provision of Transitional Board and Care Services for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

**Cost of recommended action:** \$ 515,675

**Source(s) of Funding:**

1991 Realignment 515,675

**Funding Total:**

**Net Cost to County General Fund**

-	\$ 515,675
-	\$ -

**Fiscal Year:**

FY2016-2017
-------------

**Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:**

No
----

**Fund Balance as of June 30, 2016**

Behavioral Health Fund 1501 \$ 16,829,276

The following table includes the cumulative value of prior contracts with Ever Well Health Systems, LLC for the provision of transitional board and care services for the fiscal periods beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, as required in Contract Reporting Policy Number One, originally approved by the Board on March 22, 2011.

Budget Unit	Contractor	Description of Services	Previous Contract Amounts for the Period 7/1/13 thru 6/30/16	Proposed Additional Amount for FY 7/1/16 thru 6/30/17	Cumulative Total Contract
Behavioral Health	Ever Well Health Systems, LLC	Provision of transitional board and care services	\$85,000	\$515,675	\$600,675

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

This agenda item supports the Board of Supervisors' priorities of Effective Partnerships and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by contracting with a community provider to deliver the needed services at an appropriate level of service in a cost effective manner.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Existing staff is available to monitor the agreements and support the programs contained therein. There is no additional staffing impact associated with the approval of this agenda item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Linda Downs Interim Assistant Director, Administrative Services 525-6117

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Amendment

# Attachment 1

**AMENDMENT  
TO PROVIDER AGREEMENT**

This Amendment is made and entered into in the City of Modesto, State of California, by and between the County of Stanislaus (hereinafter referred to as "County"), and Ever Well Health Systems, LLC, a California limited liability company, (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"), effective the date of the last signature, for and in consideration of the premises, and the mutual promises, covenants, terms, and conditions hereinafter contained.

WHEREAS, County and Contractor entered into an agreement dated May 15, 2016 to operate an adult residential care facility for mentally ill adults; and

WHEREAS, County has experienced an increased need and Contractor has agreed to provide additional bed days; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual promises, covenants, terms, and conditions hereinafter contained, the Agreement, which was entered into on May 15, 2016, is amended to increase the contract maximum amount by \$515,675, from \$85,000 to \$600,675. This amendment is incorporated into the Agreement as follows:

- I. Exhibit A, Section C Billing and Payment, Item 2 of the agreement is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:
  2. In consideration of Contractor's provision of services required under this Agreement, County shall reimburse Contractor an amount not to exceed the Contract Maximum of \$600,675. Payment shall be made on a fee for service basis, for actual days of service provided.
- II. All other terms and conditions of said Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

**(SIGNATURES SET FORTH ON FOLLOWING PAGE)**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment on the date(s) shown below.

**COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND  
RECOVERY SERVICES**

**EVER WELL HEALTH SYSTEMS, LLC**

Cheri Dockery, LCSW 9-9-16  
~~Madelyn Schlaepfer, Ph.D. Date~~  
~~Behavioral Health Director~~  
Cheri Dockery, LCSW, CATE  
Associate Director/Interim  
Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Zubiata Date  
MSW, ACSW, CMFSW  
President and Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
John P. Doering, County Counsel

Marc Hartley  
Marc Hartley  
Deputy County Counsel


BOS Action Item: 2016-446 Date: August 30, 2016

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment on the date(s) shown below.

**COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND  
RECOVERY SERVICES**

**EVER WELL HEALTH SYSTEMS, LLC**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Madelyn Schlaepfer, Ph.D.      Date  
Behavioral Health Director

 \_\_\_\_\_      7/2/16  
Christopher Zubiata      Date  
MSW, ACSW, CMFSW  
President and Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
John P. Doering, County Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Hartley  
Deputy County Counsel

BOS Action Item: 2016-446      Date: August 30, 2016