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**Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

Item Number: 1.8

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026

DEPARTMENT: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Noelle Magner-Figueroa

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Rachel White

SUBJECT:

BEHVAIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT - R. WHITE

1. Approve contract with Merced Behavioral Health Center in the amount of \$178,000.00 for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for residential care in a locked Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facility; and
 2. Authorize Chair, or County Executive Officer, or designee to sign.
- SBC FILE NO.: 810

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

There are times when clients of the Behavioral Health Department may require inpatient, locked psychiatric sub-acute level skilled nursing services as a part of their on- going treatment plan. This facility is located in neighboring Merced County offers access to a higher level of care than can be offered within San Benito County. These services are typically funded with a combination of client's SSI benefits and Mental Health realignment funds. The services provided through the Merced Behavioral Health Center are not a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program for beneficiaries between the ages 21-64.

Our County does not have this type of service available in our local community, however; this contract will provide access to a variety of levels of mental health care resources for our served individuals. This is a fee for service agreement that is mandated by the Department of Health Care Services. There are

limited resources to provide this specialized service in the State of California.

San Benito County has a history of working with Merced Behavioral Health. The provider contacted San Benito County Behavioral Health to renew their contract, SBCBH agreed due to our previous history of working with them and the low number of clients.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is non-general fund and allocated to GL 228.90.2520.1000.630.116. The county has had 5 previous agreements with this vendor serving between 1-3 clients per year.

This contract is fee for service and sole sourced. There is no RFP/RFQ history. This is due to the fact that the types of services the Contractor provides are a mandate through DHCS and there are limited resources available to provide this level of care. In addition, the number of beneficiaries that would utilize these services within our county is quite low and contractors find pursuing an RFP/RFQ fiscally unsustainable due to the low numbers. Finding contractors is difficult therefore when San Benito County Behavioral Health finds one willing to be a provider for this specialized service, we will generate a contract that will allow us to use their facilities when the need arises.

There have been 5 previous fee for service contracts with this agency.

Fiscal Year	Actual Spent
FY 21-22	\$16,756.69
FY 22-23	\$136,774.41
FY 23-24	\$39,620.80
FY 24-25	\$0.00
FY 25-26	\$155,466.67

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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2. Authorize Chair, or County Executive Officer, or designee to sign.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agenda Fact Sheet -Contract - Merced Behavioral Health Center](#)
[FY 26-27 Merced Behavioral Health Contract](#)
[Merced BH Sole Source Justification](#)