

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

August 19, 2025

FROM

GEORGINA YOSHIOKA, Director, Department of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT

Non-Financial Agreement with Walden University, LLC for the Student Internship Program

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Approve the non-financial Student Internship Program **Agreement No. 25-647** with Walden University, LLC, including non-standard terms, for the provision of Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, and Social Work Student Internship training and field experience, for the period of August 19, 2025, through June 30, 2029.

(Presenter: Georgina Yoshioka, Director, 252-5142)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Promote the Countywide Vision.

Create, Maintain and Grow Jobs and Economic Value in the County.

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item does not impact Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost) as the recommended Student Internship Program Agreement (Agreement) is non-financial in nature.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) employs qualified professionals in multiple disciplines including medicine, nursing, psychology, marriage and family therapy, and social work. As a result, DBH can provide necessary tutelage and guidance to student interns participating in a variety of behavioral health-related educational programs. Reciprocally, the use of interns to assist the County's workforce is a valuable means of maximizing available public resources. Through student internship programs, DBH provides learning experiences that will help students develop the skills they need to prosper in their chosen profession, which aligns with the Countywide Vision regarding economy.

Since 2008, DBH has operated an internship program through agreements with schools and other institutions, which established the terms and conditions under which DBH accepts interns. These agreements enable students to earn required internship hours while working under the supervision of qualified DBH staff.

This Agreement with Walden University, LLC (WU) will allow Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Student Intern placements in DBH clinics and/or programs through the internship program. Interns will perform specialty Nurse Practitioner duties involving examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health patients. Interns will also advise and counsel

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patients or legal guardians on mental health treatment and diagnosis, perform related duties as required on assigned patients under DBH standardized procedures and protocols, and report to a designated supervising Nurse Practitioner, in the outpatient clinics, to develop the experience required to perform at fully qualified working level.

This Agreement with WU also offers internship opportunities for Social Work interns to gain a wide range of clinical experience with adults, children, and families. Interns will work with highly trained DBH staff to gain experience with triage and initial screening, crisis assessment and intervention, clinical assessment and diagnosis, individual and group therapy, case management and complex care coordination. The program also offers participation with a multi-disciplinary team, collaboration with professions in other agencies such as Probation, Law Enforcement, Children & Family Services, and linkage and referral to additional community programs and support. Interns in community settings may also be placed in programs providing services to crisis response and homeless outreach teams.

On February 27, 2024 (Item No. 21), the Board of Supervisors approved a Standard Agreement Template (Template) for private schools and other institutions. The recommended Agreement with WU contains modifications from the Template; however, it remains in conformance with County Policy 11-05. The modifications are as follows: additional language was developed for conformance with DBH's Sound and Photographic Recordings Policy (COM0922) and requires students to sign the DBH Oath of Confidentiality and Code of Conduct prior to initial contact with DBH clients.

The indemnification and insurance provisions have been modified from the Template and differ from the standard County contract language. The non-standard terms include the following:

1. Per the Agreement, each party is required to defend, indemnify or hold the other party harmless to the extent arising out of the respective party's breach of the Agreement and negligent or wrongful acts or omissions in connection with its performance under the Agreement.
 - County Policy 11-07 requires the contractor to indemnify the County against all claims arising out of the contract from any cause whatsoever.
 - Potential Impact: By agreeing to indemnify WU, the County could be contractually waiving the protection of sovereign immunity. If the County is sued for any claim resulting from its own breach of the Agreement and negligent or wrongful acts or omissions in connection with its performance under the Agreement, the County may be solely liable for the costs of defense and damages.
2. The Agreement does not require WU to meet the County's insurance standards as required pursuant to County Policy 11-07.
 - The County Policy requires contractors to carry appropriate insurance at limits and under conditions determined by the Risk Management Department and set forth in the County standard contract.
 - Potential Impact: The contract does not include all of the County standard insurance requirements. This means that the County has no assurance that WU will be financially responsible for the claims that may arise under the contract.

DBH recommends approval of this Agreement, including the non-standard terms, as it will allow students from WU to participate in a valuable learning opportunity and provide DBH with additional staffing resources for delivery of services.

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PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by Behavioral Health (Lisa Rivas-Ordaz, Contracts Supervisor, 383-3940) on July 14, 2025; County Counsel (Dawn Martin, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on July 22, 2025; Risk Management (Stephanie Pacheco, Staff Analyst II, 386-9039) on July 18, 2025; and County Finance and Administration (Allegra Pajot, Administrative Analyst, 388-0218) on August 4, 2025.

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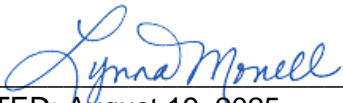
Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Moved: Joe Baca, Jr. Seconded: Curt Hagman

Ayes: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Jesse Armendarez, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr.

Lynna Monell, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY 
DATED: August 19, 2025



cc: DBH - Carso w/agree
Contractor - c/o DBH w/agree
File - w/agree

CCM 08/21/2025