

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

September 9, 2025

FROM

GEORGINA YOSHIOKA, Director, Department of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT

Non-Financial Agreement with the University of Southern California for the Student Internship Program

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Approve non-financial Student Internship Program **Agreement No. 25-685** with the University of Southern California, including a non-standard term, for the provision of Social Work Student Internship training and field experience, for the period of September 9, 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 (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 Vision2Succeed initiative.

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

This Agreement with the University of Southern California (USC) offers opportunities for Social Work interns to gain a wide range of clinical experience with adults, children, and families. Interns will work with highly trained and experienced DBH staff gaining experience with triage

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and initial screening, crisis assessment and intervention, clinical assessment and diagnosis, individual and group therapy, case management, and complex care coordination, participation in a multi-disciplinary team, collaboration with professions in other agencies such as Probation, Law Enforcement, and Children & Family Services, and linkage and referral to additional community programs and supportive services. Interns in community settings may 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 USC 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 forms prior to initial contact with DBH clients.

The indemnification provision has been modified from the Template and differs from the standard County contract by the following non-standard term:

Per the Agreement, each party is required to defend, indemnify or hold the other party harmless to the extent arising out to 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 USC 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.

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

PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by Behavioral Health (Diana Barajas, Acting Contracts Supervisor, 383-3962) on July 22, 2025; County Counsel (Dawn Martin, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on August 1, 2025; Risk Management (Stephanie Pacheco, Staff Analyst II, 386-8655) on July 28, 2025; and County Finance and Administration (Allegra Pajot, Administrative Analyst, 388-0218) on August 19, 2025.

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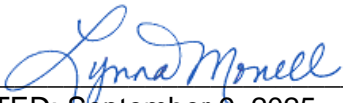
Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

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: September 9, 2025



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

CCM 09/12/2025