

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR PHARMACY SERVICES AT DETENTION FACILITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Sheriff's Office (Sheriff) provides comprehensive health care services to incarcerated persons in custody at all seven Sheriff's detention facilities across San Diego County as required by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. Impacts from Assembly Bill 109, enacted in 2011, which mandated the Sheriff's Office house defendants convicted of less serious felonies to serve their time in local county jail rather than in state prison, include elevated medical needs of the incarcerated population. As the incarcerated population needs have changed and obligations for medical services have increased to address complex diagnoses, there has been a fundamental shift of health service delivery from ad-hoc acute care services in an ambulatory setting to comprehensive, preventive, and chronic care services in a structured institutional environment.

On August 4, 2020 (1), the Board of Supervisors approved the Sheriff's request to issue a competitive solicitation for health care services. On April 26, 2022, the County awarded a contract for consolidated health care delivery to Naphcare, Inc. and services began on June 1, 2022. The contract for comprehensive health care services includes provisions for pharmacy services which encompasses on-site medication administration and pharmaceutical operations. On January 26, 2023, California received federal approval to offer Medicaid services to Medi-Cal eligible youths and adults in correctional facilities, to include county jails, for up to 90 days prior to release through the Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative also known as Medi-Cal Transformation Initiative. Pharmacy services are required as per this initiative. The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires correctional facilities to obtain medications from a Medi-Cal enrolled pharmacy to receive reimbursement for these prescriptions. The Sheriff's current health care vendor providing pharmacy services, Naphcare, Inc. is not a Medi-Cal enrolled pharmacy and has confirmed it will not seek enrollment. Continuing to use a non-enrolled pharmacy would render the County unable to comply with Medi-Cal billing requirements and preclude the ability to seek reimbursement for prescribed medications provided to incarcerated persons upon release.

Today's action requests the Board to authorize a competitive solicitation for pharmacy services for the Sheriff's detention facilities for one year, with nine option years, and a six-month extension if needed, subject to the availability of funds, and to amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SHERIFF

In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for pharmacy services in Sheriff's detention facilities, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for an initial term of one year, with nine one-year option periods, and an additional six-month extension, if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to service requirements and funding, subject to approval of the Sheriff.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy People 2030 defines a health disparity as a "particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage." Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health care based on their racial or ethnic group and other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. This request for a Medi-Cal-enrolled pharmacy builds greater health equity for our incarcerated population. It gives incarcerated people access to high quality and affordable pharmaceutical services while in custody, providing them with more adequate medical care. The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to advancing health equity outcomes for incarcerated persons and having an on-site pharmacy provider allows timely and effective clinical engagement.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Most individuals in the carceral environment have experienced, or continue to experience, notable health disparities. Having an on-site pharmacy provider supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal to provide just and equitable access. Advancing health care equity outcomes mean ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible and has ready access to medical and behavioral care with proximity to clinical services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in an estimated annual cost of \$8,896,840 for the current fiscal year. Subsequent year costs will be included in future years Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Office based on amounts included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Operational Plan. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue and anticipated funds for medical care services. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter