



Contra  
Costa  
County

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Sharon L. Anderson, County Counsel  
Date: March 2, 2021

Subject: Contract for Court-Appointed Expert

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the County Administrator, or designee, to execute a service agreement with Dr. Roberta Stellman, under which the County is obligated to pay the reasonable fees and expenses of Dr. Stellman in her capacity as the court-appointed expert in the subject matter of mental health care, in accordance with a consent decree filed October 1, 2020, in the case of *Gabriel Young, et al. v. County of Contra Costa*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, Case No. 20-06848 NC.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Costs will be paid out of the County Administrator's Office budget. On February 24, 2021, the Court in *Gabriel Young, et al. v. County of Contra Costa* approved the consent decree and appointed Dr. Stellman to be the Court expert on mental health care, with financial responsibility for the cost of her services assigned to the County. While there is no payment limit, the estimated cost may reach \$300,000, depending on the duration of the consent decree, which could be three to five years, or more.

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **03/02/2021** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor  
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor  
Diane Burgis, District III Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 2, 2021

Monica Nino, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Laura Cassell, Deputy

Contact: Kate Andrus,  
925-655-2245

cc:

### BACKGROUND:

The County is the defendant in *Gabriel Young, et al. v. County of Contra Costa*, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 20-06848 NC, which is a class action that alleges the County failed to provide minimally adequate medical and mental health care to the people incarcerated in its jails. The County denies the allegations. In March 2017, the parties entered into a structured negotiation agreement as an alternative to imminent litigation. The parties agreed to work toward a settlement to address the conditions of confinement in the County's jails. As part of the settlement agreement, the County is subject to a consent decree that the Court approved on February 24, 2021. As part of the consent decree, the Court appointed Dr. Stellman to be the Court expert on mental health care, with the County obligated to pay her costs and expenses.

The consent decree is a court order. Under the consent decree, the County is bound to pay for the services of Dr. Stellman for the purposes set forth in the consent decree. The consent decree does not include a payment limit or a maximum term. It is expected that the cost of Dr. Stellman's services could reach \$300,000 over three to five years, or possibly more.

### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the County fails to pay for the services of Dr. Stellman for the purposes set forth in the consent decree, the County is susceptible to sanctions by the Court.