



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 27, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Gilman, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services

Subject: Contract No. 104289-1 Amendment: Jackson & Coker for Locum Tenens Psychiatrists

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to amend Contract No. 104289-1 to add \$400,000 and for a not to exceed amount of \$1,814,480. The term of the contract remains the same ending on June 30, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the scope of work in the amount of \$400,000 are currently available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget in Health (Short/Doyle) Fund 316.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This service provides a safety net for consumers when the Mental Health Division's Adult Mental Health Clinic experiences a shortage of staff allowed to prescribe medication. This contract will allow intermittent usage of locum tenens medication services through Jackson & Coker Locum Tenens, LLC to ensure clients have access to medication. Locum tenens are licensed and qualified Psychiatrists or Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners who have a temporary placement at the contracting facility.

A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for locum tenens psychiatry services will be processed during the second quarter of FY 2027. City Council previously approved Resolution No. 72,032-N.S., which laid out a plan to complete an RFP before the end of FY 2026, however, due to subsequent noticing requirements outlined in Government Code Section 3504.1 as amended by AB 339 involved detailed discussions with labor unions which did not conclude until June 2026. The current objective is to amend this contract to provide necessary services throughout the RFP process.

Effective January 1, 2026, local agencies are required to satisfy noticing requirements for certain contracts for services that meet the criteria outlined in Government Code Section 3504.1 as amended by AB 339. This project does not meet the criteria in Government Code Section 3504.1 and is exempt from the noticing requirement.

BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Division has experienced great difficulty in filling vacant positions for staff who can prescribe psychiatric medications. Due to a variety of factors, including the Medi-Cal expansion through the Affordable Care Act, an existing shortage of psychiatrists in the region has been greatly exacerbated. By contracting with a locum tenens, the City is able to provide constant services when there is staffing turnover, long term vacancies or additional short-term staffing needs.

Hourly rates for locum tenens psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners have increased significantly in recent years, due to the staffing shortages throughout the region. This contract ensures the City will provide quality mental health care when there are staffing vacancies. The clear desire is to have career staff working in the clinic, but locum tenens capacity is needed to continue to serve our clients with medication during potential vacancies. This contract will provide sufficient funds to ensure that there will be no interruption in medication services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Jackson & Coker offers locum tenens that provide psychiatric prescriber services to Medi-Cal, uninsured, disenfranchised, and underserved populations. These services are necessary for the provision of behavioral health treatment provided by the City. These services will only be utilized during staff shortages and are not a replacement of permanent staffing.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City is required to provide necessary medication prescription and monitoring services for individuals with mental illness. A shorter contract period and a smaller amount of funding were considered, but this would require the Mental Health Division to return with more frequent amendments to this contract over time.

CONTACT PERSON

Jeffrey Buell, Manager of Mental Health Services, HHCS, (510) 981-7682
Conor Murphy, Associate Management Analyst, HHCS, (510) 981-7611

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 104289-1 AMENDMENT: JACKSON & COKER FOR LOCUM
TENENS PSYCHIATRISTS

WHEREAS, Berkeley Mental Health (“BMH”) Division has a successful partnership with Jackson & Coker Locum Tenens, LLC (“J&C”), providing locums tenens psychiatry services for BBH clients; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley entered into Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on March 17, 2015, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$24,900, in order to provide locums tenens psychiatric services including necessary medication prescribing and attempting to fill staff vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley amended Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on June 19, 2015, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$49,900, in order to provide ongoing locums tenens psychiatric services when recruitment efforts did not lead to permanent staffing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley amended Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on July 24, 2015, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$99,900, in order to provide ongoing locums tenens psychiatric services due to continued staff vacancies and expenditures approaching the prior contract limit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley amended Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on August 24, 2016, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$174,900, in order to provide ongoing locums tenens psychiatric services due to continued staff vacancies and expenditures approaching the prior contract limit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley amended Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on January 2, 2018, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$400,000, in order to provide ongoing locums tenens psychiatric services due to continued staff vacancies and expenditures approaching the prior contract limit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley amended Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C on August 9, 2022, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$964,480, in order to provide ongoing locums tenens psychiatric services due to continued staff vacancies and expenditures approaching the prior contract limit; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Berkeley approved amending Contract No. 104289-1 with J&C via Resolution 72,032-N.S. on November 18, 2025, for an expenditure contract limit not to exceed \$1,414,480, in order to provide ongoing locum tenens psychiatric services due to continued staff vacancies and expenditures approaching the prior contract limit; and

WHEREAS, this contract is exempt from the noticing requirements set forth in Government Code Section 3504.1; and

WHEREAS, funds are currently available in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget in Health (Short/Doyle) Fund 316.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee is authorized to execute a contract amendment to add \$400,000 with Jackson & Coker Locum Tenens, LLC for locum tenens psychiatrists through June 30, 2027, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,814,480. A record signature copy of said contract to be on file with the Office of the City Clerk.