



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: July 18, 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Antoinette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Directors Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Laura Zeitz, RN, Division Chief
Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Behavioral Health Housing and Care Continuum Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file a presentation on housing and care continuum progress to serve individuals receiving specialty mental health and substance abuse recovery services within Santa Barbara County; and
- B. Determine that the above actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA guidelines, as organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board of Supervisors regarding the progress that has been made in expanding the treatment and housing options developed subsequent to the September 2016 presentation to the Board. An ideal behavioral health system has facility and programmatic capacity at every level along its continuum from acute care to permanent supportive housing, allowing clients to access appropriate care in the least restrictive and most cost-effective setting. Santa Barbara County has a variety of resources and projects underway aimed at reducing service gaps. This presentation will

provide an overview of treatment facilities and housing while also outlining other factors and considerations impacting the continuum and the Department's priorities.

Background:

Behavioral health systems of care and recovery require sufficient and balanced facility and programmatic capacity at each level along the continuum of care in order to function efficiently. Gaps along the continuum of care, from a facility and program support perspective, can result in overuse of high levels of care and an increase in crisis situations which can have negative effects on clients and their families. Access to stable and safe housing, along with readily available supportive behavioral health treatment, is essential for sustainable recovery for persons challenged by living with mental illness and/or addiction.

Unmet facility needs within the county's behavioral health continuum of care have been identified. These services are provided by Behavioral Wellness and community partners whom include local hospitals and community-based organizations. The initial findings were presented to the Board of Supervisors in September 2016 and focused on the acute, crisis, residential, and permanent supportive housing facility components. Since then, Behavioral Wellness and community partners have made strategic investments and notable progress in addressing treatment placement and housing gaps identified in that report.

The behavioral health facility types are organized along the continuum of care from the most restrictive and costly (acute inpatient care) to the least restrictive and less costly settings (permanent supportive housing). The four types of facilities are:

1. Acute
 - a. Facilities with the highest intensity level of medical and nursing support for patients in periods of acute psychiatric need. Examples include the Psychiatric Health Facility, Las Encinas, and Vista del Mar.
2. Crisis
 - a. Facilities with medical and nursing short term support to bridge individuals during periods of serious psychiatric crisis. Examples include the 23-hour bed Crisis Stabilization Unit and 30-day stay Crisis Residential Treatment Facilities.
3. Residential
 - a. A broad range of licensed facilities providing varying service intensity levels and longer-term stays. Examples include Residential Treatment Facilities, the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), and Board & Cares.
4. Permanent Supportive Housing
 - a. Housing with lower service intensity levels that may provide on-site support for client recovery and independent living skills. Examples include Residences at Depot St, West Cox, and Pescadero Lofts.

This presentation provides an overall update since 2016 and identifies increases in capacity of treatment placement and housing options. While significant progress has been noted in certain categories such as residential, other categories indicate continued insufficient capacity to meet the community's behavioral

health continuum of care needs. These facility types include acute, crisis, and permanent supportive housing. This presentation contains an updated analysis of facility needs based on recently published reports from California's Department of Health Care Services and the RAND Corporation with a breakdown of important factors occurring in behavioral health across California.

The following are critical factors in system design considerations moving forward:

- Upcoming CARE Court implementation,
- Potential Mental Health Services Act restructuring,
- State Bridge Housing grants for interim and temporary housing,
- Medi-Cal healthcare reform with CalAIM and new benefit offerings such as sobering centers,
- Impacts of Felony to Stand Trial (FIST) commitments in county and subsequent legislative changes in regards to FIST and community mental health diversion,
- Proposed changes to the Federal Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion; and
- State level options to allow for Federal funding inpatient facilities in excess of sixteen beds and create a more robust community-based network as part of the California's Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) Demonstration request.

Special Instructions: Please return one (1) Minute Order to Melanie Johnson at mejohanson@sbcbswell.org and bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Behavioral Wellness Behavioral Health Housing and Care Continuum PowerPoint Presentation

Authored by:

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