



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: February 12, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Technology Suite Personnel Resolution FY 18-19

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

A. Adopt the attached Personnel Resolution effective February 25, 2019 as follows:

Add one (1) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Case Worker position,
Add two (2) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Recovery Assistant positions,
Add one (1) 1.0 FTE Health Care Program Coordinator position,
Add one (1) 1.0 FTE Admin Office Professional I/II position; and

B. Determine that the recommended actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) since the recommended actions are governmental fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request that the Board approve the addition of Mental Health personnel who will aid in the implementation and deployment of the Peer to Peer Chat and Digital Therapeutics application which is a part of the Mental Health Services Act Innovation Program. This application offers a free, voluntary and mobile web-based network of trained peers available to chat 24/7 with

individuals (or their family members/caregivers) experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department to offer greater access to peer support, behavioral health services and linkages to treatment.

Background: People with behavioral health challenges are often stigmatized and isolated, which contributes to feelings of hopelessness, lack of treatment and unnecessarily high levels of hospitalization, incarceration, morbidity and mortality. On the other hand, when people are offered the social and therapeutic supports they need to live productive lives, law enforcement, acute care and social service resources will be available to others in need. Assisting individuals with behavioral health challenges with new pre-crisis options is cost-effective and beneficial to the community.

For decades, greater access to behavioral health services, including crisis response and crisis triage, as well as improved communications among clients, family members, clinicians and peer specialists have been top concerns of Santa Barbara County stakeholders. These concerns have been expressed over and over at Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) stakeholder forums, town halls, Mental Health Commission meetings and other venues.

Thanks to funding from MHSA and Senate Bill 82 (SB 82), in recent years the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness has substantially expanded crisis response and crisis triage services countywide. However, a great deal of work remains in increasing engagement of underserved, hard-to-reach and marginalized communities, improving communications and increasing access to services, especially at non-crisis levels.

Recently, the Department of Behavioral Wellness became aware of the multi-county technology collaboration focused on a Technology Suite of online communications designed to meet the need of mental health clients. Over 20 counties have expressed interest in participating in the Tech Suite. The Tech Suite project was included as part of the Department's Mental Health Services Act Plan Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Update which was approved by the Behavioral Wellness Commission on June 20, 2018 and the Board of Supervisors on July 17, 2018. Last year, the Department submitted a five (5) year Technology Suite Collaborative Innovation Plan for the amount of \$4,912,852 and on September 27, 2018 the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission approved it. CalMHSA will be the acting fiscal agent for the project.

The Technology Suite and other digital applications offer an array of potentially life-changing tools to advance the well-being and recovery of behavioral health clients in Santa Barbara County. The Department proposed focusing on one component of the Technology Suite – Peer to Peer Chat and Digital Therapeutics (PPCDT) – for three at risk and/or underserved populations:

- 1) Adults discharged from psychiatric hospitals and/or recipients of crisis services;
- 2) Transition-age youth who are students at colleges and universities; and
- 3) Individuals age 16 and over living in geographically isolated communities, such as Guadalupe, New Cuyama and others.

It is our goal to deploy the PPCDT to improve peer support services and access to care focused on prevention, early intervention, family support and social connection to reduce hospitalizations and use of emergency services among individuals 16 and older.

Approval of the recommended actions will approve the following Mental Health personnel:

1. One (1) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Case Worker,
2. Two (2) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Recovery Assistants,
3. One (1) 1.0 FTE Health Care Program Coordinator, and
4. One (1) 1.0 FTE Admin Office Professional I/II

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 700,000.00		
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: The current Fiscal Year funding for this project comes from salary savings in the Mental Health Services Act Innovations fund.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

Add 5 new

FTEs:

Add 5.0 FTE

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) copy of the executed Resolution and one (1) minute order to Qiuana Lopez at qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Please also send one (1) copy of the minute order and executed Salary Resolution to Stefan Brewer, Position Control Division, Human Resources Department.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Santa Barbara County MHSOAC approval letter

Attachment B: Salary Resolution

Attachment C: The Technology Suite Proposal Brief

Authored by:

Q. Lopez