

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 11/4/05
Department Name: ADMHS
Department No.: 043
Agenda Date: 11/22/05
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: James L. Broderick, Ph.D.
Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

STAFF CONTACT: Carrie Topliffe, CPA
681-4092

SUBJECT: Submission to the State of the Mental Health Services Act Plan

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors receive for approval the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan for submission to the State of California and authorize ADMHS to request MHSA funding of \$3.8 million annually for 3 years.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The purpose of the MHSA is to “expand and transform mental health services” in California through better access to care and increased consumer and family member involvement. New programs will be funded through a tax surcharge which began on January 1, 2005. Though the funding is modest, transformative themes have emerged from the legislation, such as consumer partnership in developing and evaluating programs, enhanced linguistic diversity and cultural sensitivity, decreasing homelessness, and developing better access to mental health services.

The attached plan was carefully developed through a series of town hall meetings, consumer and family member meetings, stakeholder meetings, a three-day Summit and one-day Post Summit, community surveys and public hearings held by the Mental Health Commission. The State Department of Mental Health required extensive public input into each county’s Mental Health Services Act Plan. Over 800 County residents and organizations participated in the planning process. Several community priorities emerged including a focus on wellness, recovery and resilience; enhanced 24/7 crisis services; decreasing

homelessness; home- and community-based services; increased cultural/linguistic competency, distinct roles for consumers and family members; and integration of mental health and substance use services.

The format of the Mental Health Services Act Plan document is in compliance with State requirements. It includes: Executive Summary, Review of the Planning Process, Identifying and analyzing Community Issues, Identifying Populations for Full Service Partnerships, Identifying Program Strategies, Assessing Capacity and Developing Work Plans. The Plan also contains seventeen exhibits as relevant background data for the document.

The County's Mental Health Commission conducted two public hearings on November 9 and 10, 2005, to receive comment on the draft plan, and the Commission approved the Mental Health Services Act Plan unanimously, recommending Board of Supervisors approval.

The Commission requested that the Plan include a discussion concerning why Mental Health Services Act funding has not been allocated to develop a new Mental Health Court. This discussion would be added to page 17, #7 which summarizes substantive recommendations received during the public comment period. Because of limited funding and other community priorities, a new Mental Health Court was not recommended at the Stakeholder Summit.

According to the Mental Health Services Act, half of the funding each year (\$1.9 million) must be allocated to Full Service Partnerships for residents with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. Full Service Partnerships encompass 24/7 wraparound services staffed by multidisciplinary teams that individualize services plans for clients and focus on recovery, intensive treatment, medication management, vocational development and crisis prevention. These programs engage natural community support systems that include peers and family members, and deliver services in the client's natural environment such as home or school. With Mental Health Services Act funding, ADMHS plans to provide Full Service Partnerships to 170-195 children, transitional age youth (16-25 years), adults and older adults in Santa Barbara County.

ADMHS has planned two Full Service Partnerships. The SPIRIT program will provide services countywide to 50-75 children and youth who are at very high risk for out-of-home placement or homelessness. The Vida Nueva program will provide an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model for transitional age youth, adults and older adults in recovery and living independently. Vida Nueva will be located in Lompoc and Central County, a highly under-served region with an ethnically diverse population. ADMHS will also augment existing Assertive Community Treatment teams in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, which will enable services to be extended to two under-served communities, Guadalupe in North County and Carpinteria in South County.

To strengthen the capacity of ADMHS to meet the needs of large numbers of under-served and un-served individuals county-wide, seven transformative General System Development programs have been planned. The programs will be based on recovery-oriented, culturally competent best practices. The proposed initiatives strategically address a broad range of critical issues, including reducing frequent hospitalizations in all age groups, preventing homelessness among transition-age youth, increasing involvement of consumers and family members in client recovery, improving school success and engagement in meaningful activity, and reducing incarceration.

In addition to program funding for the activities described in the Mental Health Services Act Plan, ADMHS is requesting additional planning funds to cover costs of plan development, and start-up funding to cover recruitment and implementation expenses. This request will reach the State in advance of the Mental Health Services Act Plan implementation so that these funds can be released to Santa Barbara County immediately. The State requires a prudent reserve (\$1.9 million) to assure program stability.

ADMHS is committed to continuing this work with our community partners to implement this initiative, improving outcomes for those we serve and improving the quality of life for Santa Barbara County residents. We anticipate that the new programs will require approximately 60 new staff positions, which will be divided between ADMHS (20) and our community-based organization partners (40). The State Department of Mental Health will have six weeks to approve the Plan or to seek further clarification/information about the Plan before approval and implementation. After receiving State approval, the Department will return to the Board with specific recommendations regarding Mental Health Services Act implementation.

Mandates and Service Levels: The Mental Health Services Act Plan Submission is mandated by the State in order to apply for and receive funds under the act.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: We anticipate that funds from the Mental Health Services Act will additionally improve ADMHS' cash flow through increased MediCal revenues. Mental Health Services Act funds will be able to provide for capital facilities expenses which would otherwise go unmet.

Special Instructions: Please forward one copy of the Minute Order to Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Attn: Susan Williams, Departmental Assistant

Concurrence: Mental Health Commission