



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:** August 18, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5220  
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, J.D., Administration & Operations  
Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5236

**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness - FY 2020-23 Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2023 Department of Behavioral Wellness' Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, which was developed in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5847-5848 and California Department of Healthcare Services requirements; and
- B. Determine that the above-recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) since the recommended actions are governmental fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to provide the Board of Supervisors the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Three-Year Plan), for funded programs and services, as required by state law and in accordance with instructions and regulations from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to comply with the state law requirement, per Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5847(a), that the Board of Supervisors adopt the MHSA Three Year Plan and annual updates, and will ensure Behavioral Wellness continues to receive Mental Health Services Act funding in a timely manner.

**Background:**

The Department of Behavioral Wellness provides specialty mental health services to individuals with specialty mental health needs, and to the extent resources allow, to uninsured children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) and adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). The MHSA, passed by California voters in 2004, levied a 1% tax on annual incomes over \$1.0 million to increase funding for new and expanded mental health services.

In the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 MHSA Three-Year Plan, the Department of Behavioral Wellness committed to focusing on the continued enhancement and evolution of the many programs and initiatives launched during the last Three-Year Plan period. The new FY 2020-2023 Three-Year Plan provides information on completion and improvements in the system during the prior period of FY 2017-2020 while also outlining new proposals and strategies for the upcoming FY 2020-2023 Three-Year Plan. The Department coordinated a robust planning process including twenty-five stakeholder meetings with over 1000 individual stakeholders to solicit input and guidance from individuals and groups. Additional feedback was received June 2, 2020 to July 2, 2020 during the thirty-day draft plan public posting period; and, the Behavioral Health Commission held a Public Hearing on July 15, 2020.

The Department of Behavioral Wellness has continued to focus on the most prudent ways to deal with limited fiscal growth. Due to the initiation of mandatory contributions for the new MHSA No Place Like Home (NPLH) initiative passed by California voters in November 2018, continued focus on refining and augmenting existing programs while limiting new programs is the key fiscal strategy for continuance of all operations. The Department applied for two housing projects in 2019 and plans to develop additional NPLH project applications in 2020 to 2023 with the goal of creating 50 new permanent supportive housing units in County.

Proposed initiatives from the FY 2017-2020 Three-Year Plan that were completed include expansion of outreach and linkage services to those experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County, establishing level of care tools to help transition consumers within the continuum of care, starting Medication Support services at Recovery Learning Centers, and implementing the County's first Transitional Age Youth focused Full Service Partnership programs in each region.

Based on input received during the FY 2020-2023 planning process, the Department has four new key proposals which include:

1. Implementation of expanded Youth-Focused Care and Youth-Driven Initiatives,
2. Increased utilization of Peer Services and integration of Peer Philosophies in the Department,
3. Expansion of Housing Developments and Support Services for those experiencing Homelessness, and
4. Integrating Whole Person Care practices throughout Outpatient programming.

In order to achieve these goals, Regional Partnerships and various Action Teams meet regularly to review barriers and implement solutions in key areas of focus for MHSA. These teams include topics such as Adults, Children’s System of Care, Change Agents, Cultural Competence and Diversity, Crisis Services, Homeless Services, Housing, Peers, and Forensic Service. Action Team meetings are open to the Public for those interested in providing ongoing input and working on continuous quality improvement with Behavioral Wellness. The Department will work with these teams and Community Partners to coordinate and establish these key proposals in Santa Barbara County’s Behavioral Health System.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: There are no budget impacts from the approval of the FY 2020-23 MHSA Three-Year Plan.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State	\$ 37,947,300.00	\$ 37,947,300.00	
Federal	\$ 528,100.00	\$ 528,100.00	
Fees	\$ 30,123,200.00	\$ 30,123,200.00	
Other:	\$ 610,800.00	\$ 610,800.00	
Total	\$ 69,209,400.00	\$ 69,209,400.00	\$ -

Narrative: The FY 2020-23 MHSA Plan Update is based on the FY 20-21 adjusted budget as approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2020. This reflects the total MHSA funds and other sources leveraged by those funds in the current MHSA fund budget. There is no current budget impact to the general fund.

As the income tax that funds MHSA is paid by only a very small proportion of the population (approximately 1/10 of one percent of California taxpayers), it is subject to some variability from year to year. With limited fiscal growth anticipated, continued uncertainty about the future of the Federal Affordable Care Act and the expanded Medicaid funding it provides to the Department, and the need to make mandatory contributions to the MHSA No Place Like Home initiative, continuing to focus on refining existing programs appears to be the most prudent manner for moving forward.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) Minute Order to Ana Bello at [abello@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:abello@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) and one (1) Minute Order to the Contracts Department at [bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.co.us](mailto:bwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.co.us).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: 2020-2023 Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan

**Authored by:**

Ana Bello and Lindsay Walter