



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:** 1/8/2019  
**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, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 681-5220  
Contact Info: Pam Fisher, PsyD. Deputy Director, Chief of Clinical Operations,  
681-5220  
**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness – Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability  
Commission Children’s Triage Grant Funds FY 2018-2021

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Director of Behavioral Wellness or designee to execute the multi-year grant agreement (No. 17MHSOAC066) with the California **Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)**, and to execute any subsequent reports or amendments that do not change the amount or substantive terms of the agreement, for Children’s Triage personnel and services in the amount of **\$882,415.63** for the three year period of January 8, 2019 through November 30, 2021;
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The above referenced item is on the agenda to request approval of the recommended actions authorizing the Behavioral Wellness Director to sign an agreement with California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) accepting MHSOAC grant funds in the amount of

\$882,415.63 over three years for Children's Triage Services that will help fill a critical gap in our existing Crisis System of Care.

In Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Behavioral Wellness met with community groups to identify gaps and possible solutions in the children's behavioral health crisis services system. The Crisis Action Team and the Children's System of Care team invited concerned stakeholders to several meetings. These stakeholder meetings identified a number of service gaps. Among the most important gaps identified is the lack of engagement with children and youth in hospital emergency departments (EDs) who experience long waits for civil commitment placements. Hospitals do not have the resources to adequately care for these youth, nor do they have staff members trained to provide mental health treatment to them. In March 2018, the Department of Behavioral Wellness submitted an Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act 2013 Triage Grant Application ("Application") and in June 2018 we received a Notice of Intent to Award from MHSOAC for the Senate Bill (SB) 82 Triage Personnel grant to hire mental health personnel whose purpose will be to begin addressing some of the service gaps in the children's behavioral health crisis service system.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Behavioral Wellness to accept the grant. The Board previously approved the Behavioral Wellness Director to execute this multi-year grant Agreement which contained an Addendum 1 to the Agreement on October 16, 2018. However, MHSOAC did not approve of the Addendum and requested that Behavioral Wellness revise it and also include a budget narrative. Per MHSOAC's request, Behavioral Wellness submitted a revised Addendum 1 and budget narrative which MHSOAC has approved and incorporated into the Agreement, attached hereto as Attachment A.

**Background:**

For many years, California and Santa Barbara County have experienced a shortage of child psychiatric beds. To make matters worse for the children and adolescents of Santa Barbara County facing behavioral health crisis, in December 2017 the Thomas Fire burned 281,900 acres destroying 1,063 structures, and damaging another 280 buildings. Among those structures were two buildings at Aurora Vista del Mar (AVDM), an acute psychiatric hospital located in Ventura County. AVDM was one of the largest private psychiatric hospitals in the region. Its closure resulted in the loss of 100% of the adolescent beds on the Central Coast. AVDM has since reopened; however, as a result of its temporary closure, children and youth in crises on involuntary holds experienced very long waits in hospital emergency departments while awaiting out-of-county civil commitment placement.

In recent years, the Santa Barbara County behavioral health crisis service system has built its capacity to serve adults in crisis, but the children's system of care has not kept pace with the need. SAFTY, Santa Barbara County's children's mobile crisis service, has only six staff to serve youth countywide. This lack of staffing severely limits engagement with children in emergency departments or interventions with children experiencing sub-acute crisis.

Adding triage personnel for children at a critical point of access, local EDs, is essential to improving the client's experience and ensuring timely access to services. Having a triage clinician available also reduces unnecessary hospitalization and inpatient days because the clinician can begin to provide treatment within the ED and rescind a hold when the youth no longer meets criteria for hospitalization. This will also reduce the likelihood of increased trauma due to prolonged exposure to the chaotic and traumatic ED environment.

The Investment in Mental Wellness Act of 2013 (SB 82), administered by MHSOAC, was signed into law in June 2013 and provides grant funds through a competitive process to improve access to and capacity for mental health crisis services. The MHSOAC Triage Personnel Grant program provides \$32 million annually to hire mental health triage personnel statewide. This grant program provides counties with the opportunity to increase capacity for client assistance and services in crisis intervention, stabilization, treatment, rehabilitative mental health services and mobile crisis support teams. Services are designed to increase access to effective outpatient and crisis services, provide an opportunity to reduce costs associated with expensive inpatient and emergency room care, reduce incarceration, and better meet the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the least restrictive manner possible.

In March 2018, Behavioral Wellness applied for the second round of SB 82 Triage grant funds to increase the number of personnel to provide children's crisis intervention, crisis stabilization, mobile crisis support, and intensive case management and linkage to services to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Triage services allow crisis personnel to reach out to individuals during this time before their situations become more desperate and links them to appropriate services. The availability of crisis intervention services provides the opportunity for counties and city behavioral health departments to reduce the costs associated with long stays in emergency departments, to help link individuals released from jail to services, and to reduce the time spent by law enforcement on mental health crisis calls.

In June 2018, Behavioral Wellness was awarded the Children's Triage Grant; however we received the finalized contract at the end of September with a smaller Total Contract Amount than originally anticipated. Because of this, the Department removed portions of the grant application that were no longer applicable to the Agreement's Statement of Work set forth in Addendum 1 to the Agreement.

On October 16, 2018 the Board approved and authorized Behavioral Wellness' Director to execute the multi-year grant Agreement with the aforementioned Addendum 1. However, MHSOAC did not approve the Addendum and requested that we revise it and also include a budget narrative for their review and approval. Per MHSOAC's request, Behavioral Wellness submitted a revised Addendum 1 and budget narrative which MHSOAC has approved and incorporated into the Agreement, attached hereto as Attachment A. Additionally, on October 16, 2018, the Board adopted a Personnel Resolution (Resolution No.18-262) effective October 22, 2018 approving two (2) 0.5 FTE ADMHS Recovery Assistants and two (2) FTE ADMHS Mental Health Practitioner Interns I/II.

### **Performance Measures:**

Mental Health Triage Program goals include:

- To increase early access to services for youth and families experiencing behavioral health crisis that present at the local EDs or are identified as at-risk for behavioral health crises in the community;
- To provide on-going re-assessment of youth in the ED on 5585 holds;
- To reduce the number of youth presenting at EDs in a psychiatric emergency that requires a psychiatric hospitalization;
- To improve care coordination between client and local care providers.

Behavioral Wellness will come back to the Board for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Cottage, Marian and Lompoc Valley hospitals allowing triage personnel access to each’s EDs.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

Behavioral Wellness will submit quarterly reports within 30 days of each reporting period, including the following:

- Triage Hiring Report
- Statewide Evaluation Data
- Expenditure Information

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>	<b>FY 19-20</b>	<b>FY 20-21</b>	<b>Totals</b>
General Fund				
State	\$ 287,727.18	\$ 295,000.27	\$ 299,688.18	\$ 882,415.63
Federal				
Fees (Medi-Cal revenues)	\$ 175,209.00	\$ 181,824.00	\$ 191,440.81	\$ 548,473.81
Other:				
<b>Total Grant Funding</b>				<b>\$ 882,415.63</b>
<b>Total Other Funding Sources</b>				<b>\$ 548,473.81</b>
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	<b>\$ 462,936.18</b>	<b>\$ 476,824.27</b>	<b>\$ 491,128.99</b>	<b>\$ 1,430,889.44</b>

Narrative: This multi-year agreement is for \$882,415.63 in grant funding and payment shall be made in accordance with the payment schedule above. The funding source for FY 2018-2019 is included in the FY 2018-2019 Adopted Budget. The total 3-year budget for the program is \$1,430,889.44 which includes \$548,473.81 in anticipated Medi-Cal revenues in addition to the \$882,415.63 in State grant revenue. At the end of each Fiscal Year, any unspent Triage Grant funds shall be returned to the State.

**Key Contract Risks:**

This grant is cost reimbursed; therefore MHSOAC will reimburse Behavioral Wellness based upon the expenditures submitted quarterly. Even though receipt of MHSOAC grant funding is contingent upon incurring costs associated with the grant, there is the risk that MHSOAC may audit the costs and/or services and disallow payments, which would result in a repayment.

The contract also imposes procedural and reporting requirements implemented by Behavioral Wellness that could be subject to audit in the future.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) copy of the minute order to the Behavioral Wellness Contracts Division at [bwelcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:bwelcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) and to Qiuana Lopez at [qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: MHSOAC Grant Agreement FY 2018-2021

Attachment B: MHSOAC CTG RFA Application

Attachment C: MHSOAC SB82 Triage RFA

Attachment D: Executed Salary Resolution 18-262

**Authored by:**

Q. Lopez