



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: June 18, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 40 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Natalia Rossi, Mental Health Services Act Manager
Department of Behavioral Wellness 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness – Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

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 Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25; and
- B. Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to receive and approve the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 5847(a) requires that the Board of Supervisors adopt the MHSA Plan in order for Behavioral Wellness to receive MHSA funding. The MHSA Plan was developed in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5847 and 5848, regulations applicable to the MHSA (commencing with 9 C.C.R. § 3100), and instructions from the California Department of Health Care Services and Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Background:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (Department) provides mental health services to individuals with specialty mental health needs, and to the extent resources allow, to uninsured children with serious emotional disturbances and adults with serious mental illness. The Mental Health Services Act, passed by California voters in 2004, levies a 1% tax on annual incomes over \$1 million to increase funding for mental health services. MHSAs were designed to expand and transform California's county mental health system, emphasizes recovery and puts consumers of mental health services and their families, along with other stakeholders, at the center of decision-making. As part of the legislation, counties must prepare and submit a Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan and Annual Updates for MHSAs programs and expenditures to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and Department of Health Care Services.

The County's FY 2023-26 MHSAs Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Attachment A) was submitted on June 27th, 2023, and the FY 2023-24 Annual Update (Attachment B) provides information on the progress and improvements in Santa Barbara County's Behavioral Wellness system during FY 2023-24 while outlining strategies for FY 2024-25. The Department coordinated a robust planning process including twenty-seven stakeholder meetings to solicit input and guidance from individuals and groups. Additional feedback was received April 15, 2024 to May 15, 2024 during the thirty-day draft plan public posting period. The Department then presented the plan and received additional feedback at the Behavioral Health Commission Public Hearing on May 15. Based on the input received during the three-year planning process, the Department chose to move forward with and implement five key priorities for MHSAs funding in the coming fiscal year:

1. Increasing Full Service Partnership (FSP) Capacity and Services
2. Increasing Warm Handoff and Navigation Services for Those in Crisis
3. Increasing of Mental Health Education and Prevention Programming for Youth and Families
4. Implementing Mental Health Programs Specifically for Older Adults
5. Recruitment and Retention of Public Behavioral Health Workforce

Program highlights from FY 2023-24:

During FY 2023-24, the Department has:

1. Increased FSP budgets to include flex funding to spend on client's non-mental health needs including rent, rental deposits, medical and dental needs.
2. Created an FSP Manager position to create better uniformity of care, continuity of service and aid in retention of employees.
3. Started Growing Grounds: contracted with Transitions Mental Health Association to provide a relapse prevention program, stressing resiliency factors and supported employment for mental health consumers; this program is new, and takes referrals from Santa Maria FSPs. Employees are diagnosed with persistent mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder or major depression.
4. In January 2024, implemented the new Mobile Crisis Benefit as part of CalAIM payment reform.
5. Implemented new LEAD Program. LEAD organizes free community presentations and trainings in youth mental health first aid, or QPR (question, persuade, refer) for families and youth in the Santa Maria and Santa Ynez area. All offerings are in both English and Spanish.

6. Implemented new Suicide Prevention Training with Casa Pacifica for schools and staff.
7. Implemented new countywide Youth Council Program: had over 30 high school students participate as peer advocates to serve as trusted sources for mental health resources information.
8. Implemented new Youth-Linkages Network Program: contracted with YouthWell to educate school staff and those working with youth including resource navigators, probation officers, and school counselors so they are aware of existing community programs for students in order to connect youth to services in a timely manner. They also provided a monthly meeting to create uniformity in the County for a system-wide resource of access and linkages to mental health resources and supports.
9. Participated in three Family Engagement Fairs across the County to provide information to large groups of families and youth about Behavioral Wellness services and how to access services.
10. Launched the STAY Campaign, a targeted suicide prevention campaign in coordination with local contracted mental health organizations to increase awareness of suicidal ideation and local and national resources, including the Access Line.
11. Sponsored the Out of Darkness Walk which allows the local community to join a national effort to support survivors of suicide loss, educate the community on prevention of suicide, and decrease the stigma of mental illness.
12. Implemented new Peer & Parent Partners in Wellness and Recovery for Families Program designed to provide outreach and support to families with adults living with unmet or undiagnosed serious and persistent mental health disorders.
13. Implemented new Wellness Promotion for Seniors Program: a new prevention program for seniors living in senior housing developments throughout the County.
14. Implemented a new Retention Masters in Social Work Scholarship Program: funded up to \$25,000 for four staff pursuing Masters in Social Work degrees during FY 2023-24.

The Annual Update reports on the progress made on all five priorities during the past year, and upcoming changes, projects and proposals within each of the five priorities for FY 24-25.

Changes to Existing Programs and New Programs in the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for FY 2024-25

Priority #1: Increasing FSP Capacity and Services:

Changes to Existing Programs:

1. Starting new initiative for Adult Full Services Partnership clients to investigate ways to measure client-focused outcomes that prioritize quality of life for FSP clients and improve healthcare outcomes for FSP clients
2. Increasing staffing for Justice Alliance FSP to enable them to better serve their clients

Priority #2: Increasing Warm Handoff Services for Those in Crisis

Changes to Existing Programs:

1. BWELL is shifting the Multi-Disciplinary Team from being part of the Homeless Outreach Program to becoming its own stand-alone Early Intervention Program: the Homeless Early Intervention Team

New Programs:

1. Implementingew Peer Assessment Team that specifically reaches out to new clients post-hospitalization and post-crisis intervention to begin providing peer support services and help people entering our system of care to participate in services.
2. Implementinga new Homeless Early Intervention Team that provide early intervention mental health treatment to unhoused populations throughout the County. Staff for this team were part of the American-Rescue-Plan-Act-funded Multi-Disciplinary team. This program is changing to become oriented toward providing mental health interventions and will be funded with MHSA PEI funding.
3. Starting December 1, 2024, will implement new early intervention program that will provide access and linkages to Department services. The program will provide outreach to all referred, including CARE court referrals.

Priority #3: Increasing of Mental Health Education and Prevention Programming for Youth and Families

New Programs:

1. Starting New Mental Health Education program to Mixtec Youth and Families in North County with the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project.
2. Starting New Mental Health Education program in South County with Resilience Institute to provide prevention services to unserved and underserved LatinX populations in their community.

Priority #4: Implementing Mental Health Programs Specifically for Older Adults

New Programs:

1. Implement specific outreach to older LatinX adults with trusted community leaders countywide
2. Implement a Behavioral Health Awareness campaign specifically addressed to older adults

Priority #5: Recruitment and Retention of Public Behavioral Health Workforce

New Projects :

1. Will fund up to \$25,000 for four additional staff pursuing Masters in Social Work degrees (8 scholarships total over FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25).
2. Work on Developing Workforce Pipeline: Present at high school and college job fairs throughout the County on mental health career pathways, career opportunities in the Department.

Proposition 1: Significant Changes to MHSA Ahead

Proposition 1, passed by a narrow margin in March 2024, signifies major shifts in the landscape of mental health services and substance use treatment in California. The proposition redefines the framework established by the Mental Health Services Act in 2004, now rebranded as the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).

As Santa Barbara County gears up to comply with new BHSA regulations starting July 2026, it is important to note that this transition does not come with new funding. We will navigate the task of expanding certain services while redefining BHSA support for other programs, including prevention initiatives, workforce support and primary treatment. The initial planning for these service adjustments have begun internally at BWell, with a comprehensive planning process slated to begin mid-2025. The implementation of BHSA will commence with the FY 26- 29 Three-Year Plan.

Performance Measure:

The MHSA Plan includes program outcomes for FY 2023-24, and performance measures for the prior fiscal year are included in the appendix.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 23-24</u>		<u>FY 24-25</u>		<u>FY 25-26</u>	
	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Recommended</u>		<u>Forecast</u>	
General Fund						
State	\$	65,990,200	\$	64,586,800	\$	64,811,311
Federal	\$	281,200	\$	96,000	\$	97,000
Medi-Cal	\$	35,676,300	\$	38,600,000	\$	40,540,700
Other:	\$	4,099,500	\$	2,017,200	\$	1,773,800
Total	\$	106,047,200	\$	105,300,000	\$	107,222,811

Narrative: The FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 sources will be included in BWELL’s recommended budget request, but are contingent on Board approval. With the recent passing of Prop 1, MHSA will change to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). BHSA will require many changes to behavioral health funding, likely resulting in significant impact to future budgets and programming.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to msimon@sbcbswell.org and to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MHSA Plan Annual Update for FY 24-25
- Attachment B: Appendices to the MHSA Plan Annual Update for FY 24-25
- Attachment C: MHSA Plan Annual Update FY 24-25 Power Point

Authored by:

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J.Sanchez