



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:** November 16, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D, Acting Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5220  
Contact Info: Jessica Korsan, Mental Health Services Act Quality Coordinator  
Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5220

**SUBJECT:** Behavioral Wellness – Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Update to the FY 2020-23  
Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan

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**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 Department of Behavioral Wellness' Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Update , which was developed in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5847-5848 and California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) requirements; and
- B. Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since the recommended actions are government administrative 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 provide an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2021-22, 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 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 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 million to increase funding for new and expanded mental health services.

The Fiscal Year 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update provides information on the progress and improvements in Santa Barbara County's Behavioral Wellness system during FY 2020-21, while outlining strategies for FY 2021-22. The Department coordinated a robust planning process including seventeen stakeholder meetings to solicit input and guidance from individuals and groups. Additional feedback was received July 17, 2021 to August 17, 2021 during the thirty-day draft plan public posting period; and, the Behavioral Health Commission held a Public Hearing on August 18, 2021. Based on the input received during the three-year planning process, the Department continues to move forward with review and implementation of four key proposals:

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

**Program Highlights from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update include:**

- PEI Mental Health Student Services Act Grant (page 112 of the FY 21-22 MHSA Plan Update)

In July 2020, Behavioral Wellness was awarded a Mental Health Student Services Act grant to bring mental health and substance use resources to the Santa Barbara County schools. The Department collaborated with Santa Barbara County Education Office, Mental Wellness Center and YouthWell to develop the plan which provides participating schools with Navigators and Clinicians to help connect students and families with mental health resources and make direct referrals to community-based organizations and County resources. Funding includes hiring Behavioral Health Clinicians (1.5 FTE) and contracting with a community-based organization for Service Navigators (6.0 FTE) to provide direct services and linkages to students and their families. Additional personnel include a .25 FTE Research/Evaluator to assist with data collection, analysis, and grant reporting and a 1.0 FTE Project Manager to coordinate grant programming along with ensuring the goals of the MHSSA Grant are met. MHSSA programming focuses on providing

education, prevention and early intervention in order to decrease the need for higher levels of care. It will also create additional referral pathways for higher levels of care while collaborating with additional partners to increase access to services.

- Early Psychosis Intervention Grant Project (page 114 of the FY 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update)

In August 2020, the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission awarded Behavioral Wellness with an Early Psychosis Intervention grant to implement a Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC), a high-quality, evidenced based program focused on treating transitional-aged youth who are currently or have recently experienced a First Episode Psychosis. Program components include case management, recovery-oriented psychotherapy and relapse prevention, family psychoeducation and psychotherapy, educational and vocational support, and pharmacotherapy and primary care coordination. The CSC model seeks to improve the lives of transitional-aged youth ages 16-24 with mental health needs before escalation of symptoms to the level of severe or disability while decreasing the duration of untreated psychosis and mood disorders.

- Progress on the implementation of expanded Youth-Focused Care and Youth-Driven Initiatives (page 141 of the FY 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update)

As one of the key proposals identified during the FY 2020-2023 planning process, the Department continues to focus on the expansion of Youth Led Leadership and assisting Youth in the development of Youth-Driven initiatives. In March 2021, the Behavioral Wellness Commission outreached and successfully identified two interested Transitional Age Youth (TAY) youth for participation on the Behavioral Wellness Commission. The TAY Help@Hand Team continues to support and expand its advocacy for youth community initiatives by creating peer digital literacy training, youth gaming listening sessions, and digital peer support groups focused on LBGTQ+ and meditation. In March 2021, an Alcohol Drug Program grant was awarded in collaboration with Family Services Agency funding the creation of a Youth Center in Lompoc. This Youth Center focuses on Substance Use with a link to MHSA mental health services, and opened during Summer 2021.

- Progress on the expansion of housing developments and housing support services (page 130-131 of the FY 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update)

As another key proposal identified during the FY 2020-2023 planning process, the Department has focused on expanding housing developments and housing support services for those at risk, or experiencing, homelessness. During FY 2020-21 the Department met its goal in developing over 50 new housing units in each of the three largest cities in Santa Barbara County. The Department leveraged funding from No Place Like Home, HomeKey, MHSA Housing, and Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grants to help meet this goal.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes. There are no budget impacts from the approval of the MHSA Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

**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	\$ 42,141,500.00	\$ 42,141,500.00	
Federal	\$ 528,100.00	\$ 528,100.00	
Fees	\$ 37,248,300.00	\$ 38,048,300.00	
Other:	\$ 5,451,100.00	\$ 6,251,100.00	
Total	\$ 85,369,000.00	\$ 86,969,000.00	\$ -

Narrative: The FY 2021-22 MHSA Plan Update is based on the FY 2021-22 adjusted budget as approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2021. 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, upcoming CAL-AIM Medi-Cal reform and expanded Medicaid funding it provides to the Department, and the need to anticipate 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. Additionally, existing programs, such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and the new Crisis Stabilization Unit in North County are anticipated to be sustained by utilizing MHSA funds in the FY 2020-2023 Three Year Plan.

**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: MHSA Plan Update for FY 21-22

**Authored by:**

Tianna White and Lindsay Walter