



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 13, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director
Director(s) Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: CalMHSA Technology Suite Participation Agreement FY 19-24

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Participation Agreement authorizing the Department of Behavioral Wellness to participate in the **California Mental Health Services Authority Innovation Program** to increase access to mental health care and support for a total agreement amount not to exceed **\$1,520,873** for the period of **July 1, 2019** through **June 30, 2024**; and
- B. Determine that the recommended actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) since the recommended actions are governmental fiscal 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 request approval of the recommended action authorizing the Department of Behavioral Wellness (“Department”) to enter into an agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (“CalMHSA”) in order to participate in their Innovation Program which is a part of the Mental Health Services Act (“MHSA”). This Program will aid in the implementation and deployment of the Peer to Peer Chat and Digital Therapeutics (“PPCDT”) applications. These

applications offer a free, voluntary and mobile web-based network of trained peers available to chat 24/7 with individuals (or their family members/caregivers) experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department to offer greater access to peer support, behavioral health services and linkages to treatment.

Background: People with behavioral health challenges are often stigmatized and isolated, which contributes to feelings of hopelessness, lack of treatment and unnecessarily high levels of hospitalization, incarceration, morbidity and mortality. On the other hand, when people are offered the social and therapeutic supports they need to live productive lives, law enforcement, acute care and social service resources are available for others in need. Assisting individuals with behavioral health challenges with new pre-crisis options is cost-effective and beneficial to the community.

For decades, greater access to behavioral health services, including crisis response and crisis triage, as well as improved communications among clients, family members, clinicians and peer specialists have been top concerns of Santa Barbara County stakeholders. These concerns have been expressed over and over at Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) stakeholder forums, town halls, Mental Health Commission meetings and other venues.

Thanks to funding from MHSA and Senate Bill 82 (SB 82), in recent years the Department has substantially expanded crisis response and crisis triage services countywide. However, a great deal of work remains in increasing engagement of underserved, hard-to-reach and marginalized communities, improving communications and increasing access to services, especially at non-crisis levels.

Recently, the Department became aware of the multi-county technology collaboration focused on a Technology Suite of online communications designed to meet the need of mental health clients. Over 20 counties have expressed interest in participating in the Tech Suite. The Tech Suite project was included as part of the Department's Mental Health Services Act Plan Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Update which was approved by the Behavioral Wellness Commission on June 20, 2018 and the Board of Supervisors on July 17, 2018. Last year, the Department submitted a five (5) year Technology Suite Collaborative Innovation Plan for the amount of \$4,912,852 and on September 27, 2018 the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission approved it. CalMHSA will be the acting fiscal agent for the project. They will also provide overall administrative oversight and contract procurement services including program management, evaluation, establishing peer chat and digital therapeutics, and community engagement and outreach activities. The total funding amount of \$1,520,873 over the five (5) years of the Program will fund CalMHSA's services.

The Technology Suite and other digital applications offer an array of potentially life-changing tools to advance the well-being and recovery of behavioral health clients in Santa Barbara County. The Department proposed focusing on the PPCDT component of the Technology Suite for three at risk and/or underserved populations:

- 1) Adults discharged from psychiatric hospitals and/or recipients of crisis services;
- 2) Transition-age youth who are students at colleges and universities; and
- 3) Individuals age 16 and over living in geographically isolated communities, such as Guadalupe, New Cuyama and others.

It is the Department’s goal to deploy the PPCDT to improve peer support services and access to care focused on prevention, early intervention, family support and social connection to reduce hospitalizations and use of emergency services among individuals 16 and older.

On February 12, 2019, the Board adopted a Personnel Resolution for the addition of the following Mental Health personnel who will aid in the implementation and deployment of the PPCDT:

1. One (1) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Case Worker,
2. Two (2) 1.0 FTE ADMHS Recovery Assistants,
3. One (1) 1.0 FTE Health Care Program Coordinator, and
4. One (1) 1.0 FTE Admin Office Professional I/II

The cost of personnel per year averages around \$700,000 and are currently budgeted.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 19-20</u>	<u>FY 20-21</u>	<u>FY 21-22</u>	<u>FY 22-23</u>	<u>FY 23-24</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
General Fund						
State	\$ 585,341.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	
Federal						
Fees						
Other:						
Total	\$ 585,341.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 233,883.00	\$ 1,520,873.00

Narrative: The funding for this project comes from the Mental Health Services Act Innovations fund. The funding sources were approved by the Board for FY19-20 and will be included in the recommended budgets for FYs 20-24.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) copy of the executed Participation Agreement and one (1) minute order to Qiuana Lopez at qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Participation Agreement for the Mental Health Services Act Innovation Program between California Mental Health Services Authority and County of Santa Barbara

Authored by:

Q. Lopez