



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 28, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**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 – Fiscal Year 2022-23 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 Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Update to the Department of Behavioral Wellness' FY 2020-23 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 (DHCS) requirements; 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 provide an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2022-23, 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 Mental Health Services Act, 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 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update provides information on the progress and improvements in Santa Barbara County's Behavioral Wellness system during FY 2021-22, while outlining strategies for FY 2022-23. The Department coordinated a robust planning process including fourteen stakeholder meetings to solicit input and guidance from individuals and groups. Additional feedback was received May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 during the thirty-day draft plan public posting period; and, the Behavioral Health Commission held a Public Hearing on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 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) 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update include:**

- PEI Mental Health Student Services Act Grant (page 169 of the FY 22-23 MHSA Plan Update);
- Behavioral Wellness Homeless Outreach Program (page 35 of the FY 22-23 MHSA Plan Update);
- Progress on the implementation of expanded Youth-Focused Care and Youth-Driven Initiatives (page 196 of the FY 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update); and
- Progress on the expansion of housing developments and housing support services (page 198 of the FY 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update).

**PEI Mental Health Student Services Act Grant**

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. 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.

Activities include suicide awareness and prevention, drop-out prevention and outreach to high-risk youth including foster, homeless, and LGBTQ youth and students who have been removed from the school environment through suspension and/or expulsions. Outreach and educational opportunities for students, teachers, administrators, other school staff, parents and community members will include training around Youth Mental Health First Aid, mental health awareness and stigma reduction, substance use issues and suicide prevention training. Additional professional development opportunities are also being extended to increase awareness of MHSSA funded activities while increasing staff capacity to identify and address emerging mental health and/or substance use issues.

Funding includes hiring Behavioral Health Clinicians (1.5 FTE) and contracting with a community-based organization for Service Navigators (4.0 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.

### **Behavioral Wellness Homeless Outreach Program**

The Homeless Services program has experienced successful outcomes in FY 2021-2022. A total of 13 Behavioral Wellness clients successfully moved into the West Cox Cottages located in Santa Maria. Homeless Services staff located in Santa Maria kept clients engaged as the clients experienced numerous delays and postponements of the scheduled move in date. The clients living at West Cox Cottages have support of a part time caseworker employed by Good Samaritan Shelter.

In FY 2021-2022, Santa Barbara County was provided an opportunity to receive Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) that would allow for our clients to access housing opportunities offered by landlords who were willing to accept the Emergency Housing Vouchers. The Homeless Services team, in collaboration with our community partners, the City of Santa Barbara Housing Authority, Santa Barbara County Housing Community Development, County of Santa Barbara Housing Authority, City Net and Good Samaritan, successfully housed a total of twelve clients in Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Barbara County Housing Authority continues to provide updates on housing opportunities for our clients at our identified No Place Like Home, MHSA and Homekey housing programs at the following locations: Depot Street and Rancho Hermosa in Santa Maria, Home Base on G Street and Homekey studios in Lompoc, and Pescadero Lofts in Isla Vista.

Long-term progress for this program will be an increase in linkages to affordable housing, an increase in sustained housing, and an increase in homeless persons with serious or persistent mental illness being served by mental health providers. The Department is collaborating with various county partners and anticipates utilizing additional State and Federal homeless grant funds for this effort in the upcoming years.

### **Progress on the Implementation of Expanded Youth-Focused Care and Youth-Driven Initiatives**

During FY 21/22, the Behavioral Wellness Commission outreached to fill newly-created Transitional Age Youth (TAY) positions on the Commission, successfully filling one TAY commissioner position in September 2022. The TAY Help@Hand Team continues to support and expand advocacy and youth community initiatives by creating peer digital literacy training, youth gaming listening sessions, and digital peer support groups focused on LBGTQ and meditation. In June of 2021, YOR Place opened, the

result of a grant awarded in collaboration with Family Services Agency funded for the creation of a Youth Center in Lompoc. This Youth Center focused on Substance Use with a link to MHSA mental health services. Our Early Psychosis Grant award from MHSOAC, funded three peer positions at our TAY clinic in Santa Maria, and our MHSSA School Navigator and Prevention Grant award in collaboration with SBCEO, YouthWell, and the Mental Wellness Center funded onsite promoters and mental health practitioners at two school districts in North County.

**Progress on the Expansion of Housing Developments and Housing Support Services**

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. Since 2020, funding for 100 new housing units for people with a serious mental illness has been awarded to Santa Barbara County. This funding has been awarded through No Place Like Home, Homekey, MHSA Housing, and HEAP grants. By the end of Fiscal Year 2021-22, 54 units were completed. Twenty-eight units are funded in Lompoc with Homekey and No Place Like Home funding, 47 units are in Santa Maria with MHSA and No Place Like Home funding, and 25 units are in Santa Barbara/ Goleta area with No Place Like Home and HEAP funding. Behavioral support services were created for a variety of locations across the three target areas. Due to the impacts of using the Coordinated Entry System, and this influx of people new to permanent supportive housing, the goal for FY 22/23 will focus on developing an Innovation grant to fund a Housing Retention Team. This team will provide wraparound services to those entering our MHSA, Homekey and No Place Like Home funded sites, and also provide peer support services at housing locations, tenants’ advocacy and flex funding for basic housing needs like transportation and food.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

There are no budget impacts from the approval of the MHSA Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

**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	\$ 49,745,000.00	\$ 52,377,100.00	
Federal	\$ 687,800.00	\$ 529,900.00	
Fees	\$ 36,894,500.00	\$ 34,874,300.00	
Other:	\$ 2,494,100.00	\$ 4,043,600.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 89,821,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 91,824,900.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Narrative: The FY 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update is based on the FY 2022-23 adjusted budget as approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2022. 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 the expanded Medicaid funding it provides to the Department, and the need to anticipate mandatory contributions to the MHSA No Place Like Home initiative, while 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 [bethle@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bethle@sbcbswell.org) and to [bswellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org](mailto:bswellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: MHSA Plan Update for FY 22-23

**Authored by:**

Natalia Rossi  
Nakisa Shojaie