



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: September 15, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5220
Contact Info: Lindsay Walter, J.D., Administration & Operations
Department of Behavioral Wellness 681-5236
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness - Mental Health Student Services Act Grant Award

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Department of Behavioral Wellness to execute the multi-year grant agreement (No. 19MHSOAC082) with the 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 mental health services for children and youth through school-based programs in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the four-year period of 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2024;
- B. Approve a Budget Revision Request (BJE #0007185) increasing appropriations of \$1,003,594 in the Behavioral Wellness Mental Health Services Act Fund for Services and Supplies to establish FY 20-21 funding for the MHSOAC Grant – program services and funded by this MHSOAC Grant Award; and
- C. 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:

This item is on the agenda to request approval of the recommended actions authorizing the Department of Behavioral Wellness to accept a Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant award with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) in the amount of \$4,000,000 over a four-year period (MHSSA Grant). Budget Revision Request (BRR) #0007185 will establish budget for operations of the MHSOAC grant-funded program for FY 20-21.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Behavioral Wellness to expand access to mental health services in partnership with schools to children and youth.

Background:

California passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which has been designed to expand and transform California's County mental health service systems and provide funds to support mental health advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement for consumers. While the County implements MHSA programs, the MHSA mandates MHSOAC to support or oversee the counties delivery of MHSA services. Through the November 2019 State Budget Act, MHSOAC was provided with funding in support of expanding integrated mental health to eliminate youth disparities, promote wellness, recovery and resilience, and to ensure positive outcomes for individuals and their families living with serious mental health issues.

Nationwide, one in every four youth meet the criteria to receive mental health services. Youth with mental health disorders face challenges in their homes, school, and in the community. In December 2019, MHSOAC released a Request for Applications for the MHSSA grant funds intended to foster relationships between county schools and Behavioral Health departments and increase student and family access to mental health services. The MHSSA grant opportunity is modeled off of the successful partnerships with Humboldt, Placer, Tulare and San Bernardino counties and supports strategies to 1) build and strengthen partnerships between education and community mental health, 2) support school-based and community-based strategies to improve access to care, and 3) enhance crisis services that are responsive to the needs of children and youth. Behavioral Wellness, in collaboration with Santa Barbara County Education Office, applied for the MHSSA grant opportunity and on July 23, 2020 was awarded one of two grants slated for medium-sized counties with new/emerging partnerships.

Santa Barbara County has identified key measures to fill the gaps to provide enhanced intervention, prevention, and treatment service for youth. The MHSSA grant funding opportunity is targeted to help support partnerships between County mental health or behavioral health departments and local education entities to address student mental wellness issues and increase youth access to community mental health resources. MHSOAC has allocated \$75,000,000 statewide to support the creation or expansion of partnerships. MHSOAC divided the funding based on the chart below. Santa Barbara County falls into the medium-sized county category (population > 200,000 – 750,000), therefore, the maximum grant allocation will be \$4,000,000 over four years. Overall, 40 counties applied for grant funding and only 18 received awards. The MHSSA Grant will support the creation of a partnership between Behavioral Wellness, and local educational agencies, including the Santa Barbara County Education Office, focused on creating a comprehensive continuum of care for vulnerable youth that includes collaboration with community-based organizations and primary care providers.

County Designation	Number of Grants Category 1	Number of Grants Category 2	Amount of each Grant	Total
Small	2	4	\$2,500,000	\$15,000,000
Medium	4	2	\$4,000,000	\$24,000,000
Large	4	2	\$6,000,000	\$36,000,000
TOTAL				\$75,000,000

Behavioral Wellness has supported and collaborated with Santa Barbara County school districts through coordination of the Bridges Conference, active in the School Wellness Summit by providing counseling in a few districts, and coordinating the monthly Childrens’ Action Team Meetings. During the development of the grant application, Behavioral Wellness collaborated with the Santa Barbara County Education Office and various community agencies to create a comprehensive approach to bridge services gaps and increase access and linkages to mental health services for TK – 12th grade students. Activities under the program will include suicide prevention, drop-out prevention, placement assistance for students needing higher levels of care, and outreach to high-risk youth including foster, LGBTQ and students who have been removed from the school environment through suspension and/or expulsion. Through the new formalized partnership, students will also be provided with prevention and early intervention programming to support reductions in mental health stigma and staff will be provided with professional development opportunities to increase their capacity around student mental health.

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.

Performance Measure:

MHSSA grants are to be used to provide support services that address the following goals:

1. Preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling,
2. Improving timely access to services for underserved populations,
3. Providing outreach to families, employers, primary health care providers, and other to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness,
4. Reducing the stigma associated with the diagnosis of a mental illness or seeking mental health services,
5. Reducing discrimination against people with mental illness, and
6. Preventing negative outcomes in the targeted population, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Suicide and attempted suicide
 - b. Incarceration
 - c. School failure and dropout

- d. Unemployment
- e. Prolonged suffering
- f. Homelessness
- g. Removal of children from their homes, and
- h. Involuntary mental health detentions.

Counties must report to MHSOAC about the disposition of funds, the services provided, and the number of individuals who received services within 60 days of execution of the MHSOAC’s contract, on a quarterly basis, and provide an annual report to measure the goals of:

1. Reduce suicide and suicide ideation;
2. Reduce homelessness;
3. Reduce unemployment through linkages to vocational training;
4. Reduce school failure through linkage to educational support services;
5. Reduce criminal justice involvement for individuals with Mental Illness;
6. Establish additional mental health partnerships with local school entities;
7. Increase access to mental health care for students and families; and
8. Increase outreach to high-risk youth.

The County is expected to provide all services, including any and all required reports, in a timely manner – in accordance with criteria articulated in the Agreement’s Statement of Work. Specifically, fund disbursement pursuant to the MHSOAC Grant Agreement is tied to meeting goal outcomes. The project team anticipates no difficulty in meeting the targets.

The County shall not disclose data or documents or disseminate the contents of the final or any preliminary report without written permission of MHSOAC. The County will otherwise comply with open record and privacy laws, as applicable.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Budget Revision #0007185 is requested for approval to establish FY 20-21 funding.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 20-21 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 21-22 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost for FY 20-24:</u>
General Fund					
State	\$ 1,003,594	\$ 1,000,719	\$ 997,844	\$ 997,843	\$ 4,000,000
Federal					
Fees					
Other:					
Total	\$ 1,003,594	\$ 1,000,719	\$ 997,844	\$ 997,843	\$ 4,000,000

Narrative: In addition to the \$4,000,000 in grant funding, the Behavioral Wellness Department will be leveraging additional Medi-Cal funding for billable activities once operations and certifications are established.

Key Contract Risks:

This grant agreement is cost reimbursed; therefore, MHSOAC will reimburse Behavioral Wellness based upon the expenditures submitted quarterly. The grant agreement also imposes procedural and reporting requirements implemented by Behavioral Wellness that could be subject to audit by MHSOAC in the future. The contract also includes a budget contingency clause which absolves the State from liability to pay funds or other consideration under the Agreement if funds are not budgeted for the program in which case the County may cease providing services under the Agreement and the State may cancel the grant. The grant agreement requires arbitration in the event of a dispute between the County and MHSOAC in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 10240 et. seq. The costs of arbitration shall be shared equally between the parties; however, the arbitrator may require the prevailing party to be awarded costs and attorneys' fees. Absent enumerated grounds for correction or vacation of the award, the arbitrator's decision shall be binding on the parties.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract for each of the above to mejohanson@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: MHSOAC Grant Agreement FY 2020-2024

Attachment B: Budget Revision Request #0007185

Authored by:

Ana Bello/Evelyn Zuroske