COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 08, 2025

MINUTE ORDER NO. 16

SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE ON ENHANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY; AUTHORIZE MULTIPLE REQUESTS FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS TO ESTABLISH CONTRACTS FOR CRITICAL SERVICES; AND ADOPT THE REVISED LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT DESIGNATION GUIDELINES AND PROCESSES FOR FACILITIES WITHIN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In California, counties are responsible for administering specialty mental health and substance use services for residents eligible for Medi-Cal. The County of San Diego (County) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department serves as the Specialty Mental Health Plan and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. To ensure access to quality care that meets the needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in San Diego County, BHS is required to maintain a local network of behavioral health services and providers. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has made key investments over the last several years to enhance community-based behavioral health services and develop critical behavioral health infrastructure that is regionally distributed in alignment with population health needs.

In 2022, BHS developed the Behavioral Health Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model outlining the existing and optimal future capacity necessary across community crisis diversion services, community-based care, and subacute care based on data and lengths of stay more optimal for patient care. The OCP model emphasizes a behavioral health system that prioritizes care for adults that meets their individual needs in the least restrictive settings. Since developing the OCP model, BHS has taken multiple actions to build dedicated service capacity within community crisis diversion, subacute care, and community-based care, along with working to improve access to substance use and inpatient care. The County continues pursuing partnerships across the region that will enhance the continuum of care.

On January 28, 2025 (19), the Board authorized multiple actions to improve access to behavioral health care locally that will be achieved by enhancing existing partnerships or through new partnerships and directed a return to the Board within 90 days with updates on actions related to specific recommendations, to seek contracting authority, and to establish appropriations, if needed. Today's item requests the Board to receive the 90-day update and seeks authority for multiple contracting actions to advance critical services that will improve behavioral health services across the continuum of care. Also included is an update on workforce development opportunities through the expansion of academic clinical training programs.

As efforts to improve access to substance use and inpatient care continue, quality standards and program guidelines are concurrently revised to ensure compliance with updated regulations and requirements. As a result, today's item also includes a request to adopt revisions to the County Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Designation Guidelines and Processes for Facilities within San Diego County. These guidelines update criteria for evaluation and treatment services and facilities eligible for LPS designation, include additional data collection requirements, and clarify advisement and documentation guidelines to align with California Senate Bill 43 legislative changes and resulting operational updates.

These actions support the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished through further strengthening the continuum of behavioral health services by expanding care in San Diego County and updating the guidelines that support these critical services.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive update about enhancing behavioral health accessibility.

2. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs for people with behavioral health conditions, and re-release the RFSQ, as needed, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for up to 35 slots for an Initial Term of up to one year, with up to four 1-year Options, and an additional six months, if needed, and to amend the contracts, as needed, to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee.

3. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for chemical dependency recovery hospital beds for people with substance use conditions, and re-release the RFSQ, as needed, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for up to 22 beds for an Initial Term of up to one year, with up to four 1-year Options, and an additional six months, if needed, and to amend the contracts, as needed, to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee.

4. Adopt the revised Lanterman-Petris-Short Designation Guidelines and Processes for Facilities within San Diego County.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The County of San Diego (County) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is the service delivery system for Medi-Cal eligible residents with substance use care needs. In 2024, nearly one in three residents were eligible for Medi-Cal, with Hispanic and Latino residents having the highest percentage of Medi-Cal eligibility at 44%.

For Medi-Cal eligible residents who experience serious mental illnesses or have a substance use care need, BHS offers County-operated and contracted programs that prioritize addressing the social determinants of health. The goal is to ensure services are accessible, capable of meeting the needs of diverse populations, culturally responsive, and equitably distributed to providing care to those most in need. In doing so, BHS strives to reduce behavioral health inequities, identifying needs and designing services in a manner most impactful and equitable that will yield meaningful outcomes for those served. A comprehensive array of behavioral health services is vital for BHS to continue providing access to treatment and care for populations who are underserved by social and behavioral health resources.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT
Today's actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. These goals will be accomplished by providing a wider availability and range of supportive, inclusive, and stigma-free options to those in need of behavioral health services. Access to a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services will improve the overall health of communities.

FISCAL IMPACT
Funds for these requests are included in the Fiscal Years (FY) 2025-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). If approved, today's recommendations will result in approximate costs and revenue of $15.1 million in FY 2025-26. The funding sources are Short-Doyle Medi-Cal, Drug Medi-Cal, Realignment, and one-time General Purpose Revenue allocated by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on February 27, 2024 (11) for the implementation of California Senate Bill 43.

Impending federal policy changes that are being proposed may have significant impacts on the financial sustainability of local mental health and substance use treatment programs funded through Medicaid, or Medi-Cal in California. Any significant Medicaid policy changes will impact the County of San Diego's ability to financially sustain behavioral health Medi-Cal programs. Additionally, growth in Realignment funding has not kept pace with the increased costs for services, which is utilized as a local match for Medi-Cal programs.

At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. HHSA will continue to monitor any federal policy changes and will return to the Board as needed to address any significant impact as policies are implemented.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

ACTION:
ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe
ABSENT: Desmond, (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Signed by Andrew Potter