



County of San Diego

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TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW, Director
Behavioral Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2018

1. ACTION ITEMS:

1.1 Substance Abuse Block Grant Board Letter

On April 17, 2018 the Board of Supervisors will consider an item requesting the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the County of San Diego (County) enter into a contract to enable the County to receive Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funding through DHCS. SABG funds are used to provide substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery support services that are:

- Not covered by Drug Medi-Cal funding; or
- For uninsured residents of San Diego County, defined as individuals who are not covered by Medi-Cal or other health insurance.

This item requests the Board of Supervisors authorize the Clerk of the Board to execute the Behavioral Health Services Multi-Year Agreement for the SABG with DHCS and accept funding to support these services for Fiscal Year 2017-18 through 2019-20. The item also requests the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Clerk of the Board to execute any future amendments to the Agreement, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

It is THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that your Board support the request for authorization to enter into a contract to enable the County of San Diego to receive Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding through the California Department of Health Care Services.

1.2 Locum Tenens Temporary Professional Staffing Board Letter

On April 17, 2018 the Board of Supervisors will consider an item requesting authorization for Behavioral Health Services to extend and increase current temporary professional staffing contracts to ensure continuous services. Temporary staffing in the medical field is referred to as locum tenens. It will also authorize the competitive procurement of future locum tenens services.

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency utilizes temporary staff to fill vacancies until permanent hires are made, or for vacancies of clinical positions that are considered difficult to fill due to a limited pool of qualified individuals. Specifically, contracts with temporary staffing agencies for psychiatrist, medical doctor and nurse practitioner positions assist whenever there are vacancies at the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital, Edgemoor Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facility and County-operated Behavioral Health Services clinics to maintain continuity of services for the residents of San Diego County.

These proposed actions, if approved, will authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to negotiate an increase to the annual funding and extend the term of the current locum tenens contracts to ensure continuous services. It will also authorize the competitive procurement of future locum tenens services.

It is THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that your Board support the request to authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to negotiate an increase to the annual funding and extend the term of the current locum tenens contracts, and authorize the competitive procurement of future contracts.

2. LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO UPDATES / SPECIAL EVENTS

2.1 Save the Dates- Upcoming Events

- **May is Mental Health Month**

Each May, millions of people nationwide host events to raise awareness and support those living with mental health conditions. On a local level, BHS participates in a number of events which provide valuable resources and shine a light on the issue of mental illness. This year, the County will kick off the month on Saturday, April 28, 2018 with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk /HHSA Wellness Expo (see below for details). Stay tuned for more information about the events BHS is planning and a calendar of community events.

- **NAMI 5K Walk/HHSA Wellness Expo**

This annual 5K Walk/Run and Wellness Expo is a collaboration between BHS and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This year the event will be held at Liberty Station on Saturday, April 28, 2018 with opening ceremonies starting at 8:00 A.M. The event brings the community together to raise awareness and destigmatize mental health conditions. For more information or to register for the event, visit: www.namiwalks.org and search for "San Diego".

- **Behavioral Health Recognition Dinner**

On Friday June 1, 2018, the behavioral health community will come together for the annual Behavioral Health Recognition Dinner. The event recognizes people who work to support clients and family members in their efforts to achieve recovery without stigma. Reservations will be available in late April. Visit <http://www.bhrdsandiego.net/> for more information.

3. UPDATE FROM THE ADULT/OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE (AOA)

3.1. Telecare Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is a BHS contracted program operated by Telecare Corporation to provide short-term intensive clinical case management program for persons 18 and older with serious mental illness. The highest utilizers of psychiatric hospitalizations are linked via a warm-hand-off to community mental health programs for ongoing services that best matches their needs. Services are provided county-wide.

This program is considered a Full Service Partnership (FSP). The FSP goals are to reduce incarceration and institutionalization, while increasing meaningful linkage to community resources through intensive wraparound treatment, rehabilitation and case management services. This warm handoff to behavioral health resources supports sustainable change in the lives of participants. The staff that support this program include clinical and peer staff. The program serves approximately 480 clients each year with an average length of service of 1.5 months. These services align with the County's strategic initiative of Promoting Safe and Livable Communities by improving access to behavioral health services.

Telecare Transition Team has been in operation since 1995. For the first half of Fiscal Year 2017-18, there were 388 individuals enrolled in the program, and 105 of those have already been successfully linked to other appropriate levels of care.

3.2 McAlister Institute of Training and Education's Artistic Expression of Recovery Event

The mission of McAlister Institute of Training and Education (MITE) is to provide professional services that heal individuals and families, improving quality of life through recovery. On February 22, 2018, MITE's Expressive Arts Therapy Program held its first client showcase where clients were able to express their recovery through art. The exhibit featured over fifty mask paintings displaying their clients' creative talent. Each mask told a powerful unspoken and unheard story about a client's road to recovery. Rebecca Lillywhite, the Expressive Arts Therapist Director, was proud of the room filled with beautiful masterpieces. Art therapy can be used to make an impact on participants' recovery and become a transformative process for them. Attendees had an opportunity to write personal memos to the artists to provide them with words of encouragement about how they connected with the masks' stories of struggle, courage, and transformation.

3.3 Urban Street Angels – A Client Success Story

This client success story is told by a staffmember of Urban Street Angels, a BHS contracted program. The story describes the experience of "CD", a male who was born and raised in San Diego and recently was a client of Urban Street Angels.

CD was raised by a single mom who was forced to downgrade to a studio apartment due to financial strain and kicked CD out into the street at 18 years old. He sought shelter in parks all over San Diego County, and finally said to himself, "Enough!"

Frustrated with the many challenges to get housing, CD searched for programs that could help house homeless youth. His first call was to us, Urban Street Angels/8west. I answered the phone and connected immediately with CD, a soft spoken, driven young man, determined to find what options were out there. As luck would have it, CD reached out to us on a Tuesday at around noon. On Tuesday nights, we host our emergency shelter at a church in North Park. Volunteers begin runs to Ocean Beach in our van around 5pm and open the shelter doors to the local homeless TAY youth to seek shelter for the night. I explained to CD how our shelter would offer him a shower, a chance to clean his clothes, eat a home cooked meal, and connect with other youth and services.

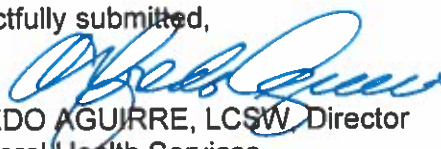
CD showed up right at 5pm to the shelter where I was able to meet him and assist him with paperwork for our housing waitlist. Thankfully, we had an immediate opening and were able fill out paperwork and complete the interview process at the church that night. We were very touched by CD's story and drive, and we were able to offer him a placement in our housing program and set up transportation for him the follow morning.

The day of CD's move-in, we provided him with his therapy assessment, which he was excited to begin and looked forward to the emotional support. The next day, CD went out in full confidence and landed himself a job at a local Sushi restaurant. This happened to be the same day as our site visit from the County and CD walked in smiling ear to ear, so proud of himself, comfortable in his very own home and feeling a sense of belonging.

Moments like this with CD, where we witness turning points in the lives of our youth, are what we as staff absolutely live for!

Urban Street Angels is a BHS contracted program that provides emergency shelter and transitional beds, housing and support services to transition age youth with serious mental illness.

Respectfully submitted,


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AA/bp

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