Item #15: Receive and Approve the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Districts: All)

Kimberly Giardina, DSW, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency
Nadia Privara, MPA, Acting Director, Behavioral Health Services
Cecily Thornton-Stearns, LMFT, Assistant Director and Chief Program Officer, Behavioral Health Services

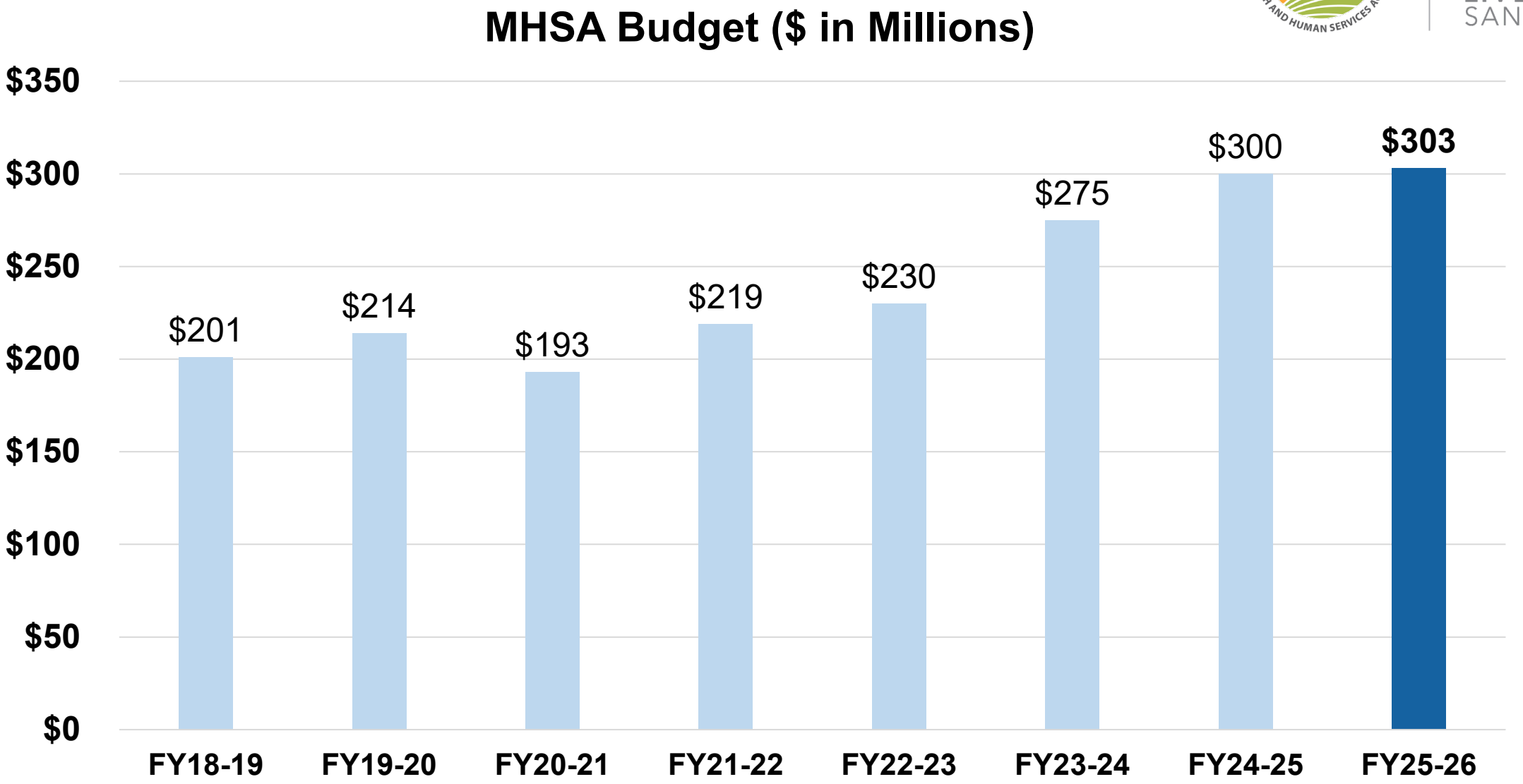
June 3, 2025

Overview of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

- Funded by 1% state tax on personal income over $1.0M
- Serves all ages and addresses broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and workforce education and training
- More than 66,000 people annually receive care through MHSA-funded services
- Final MHSA Annual Update before transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)

$3.0B **County's total investment in MHSA programs since 2004**

MHSA Budget Over the Years



Community Input Vital to MHSA Update

Community feedback and priorities received through Community Program Planning process:

- Listening sessions, focus groups, online input form, and interviews
- Behavioral Heath Advisory Board and other community-based meetings
- 30-day MHSA public comment and public hearing



Listening session with community members in Encinitas

Community Services and Supports (CSS)

Treatment and support services for people of all ages with a serious mental health condition

FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 75% of MHSA funding ($227.1M)**
- Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU)
- Treatment Services
- Housing Assistance



East CSU groundbreaking

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

Supports outreach, education, and engagement to communities

FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 17% of MHSA funding ($51.0M)**
- Community Outreach and Messaging
- Youth Engagement Ambassador Program
- Family Peer Support Program



County BHS staff at an outreach event with students

Workforce Education and Training

Education and training for the public mental health workforce

FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 2.5% of MHSA funding ($7.6M)**
- Maintains existing workforce programs:
  - Public Mental Health Academy
  - Community Psychiatry Fellowship Program

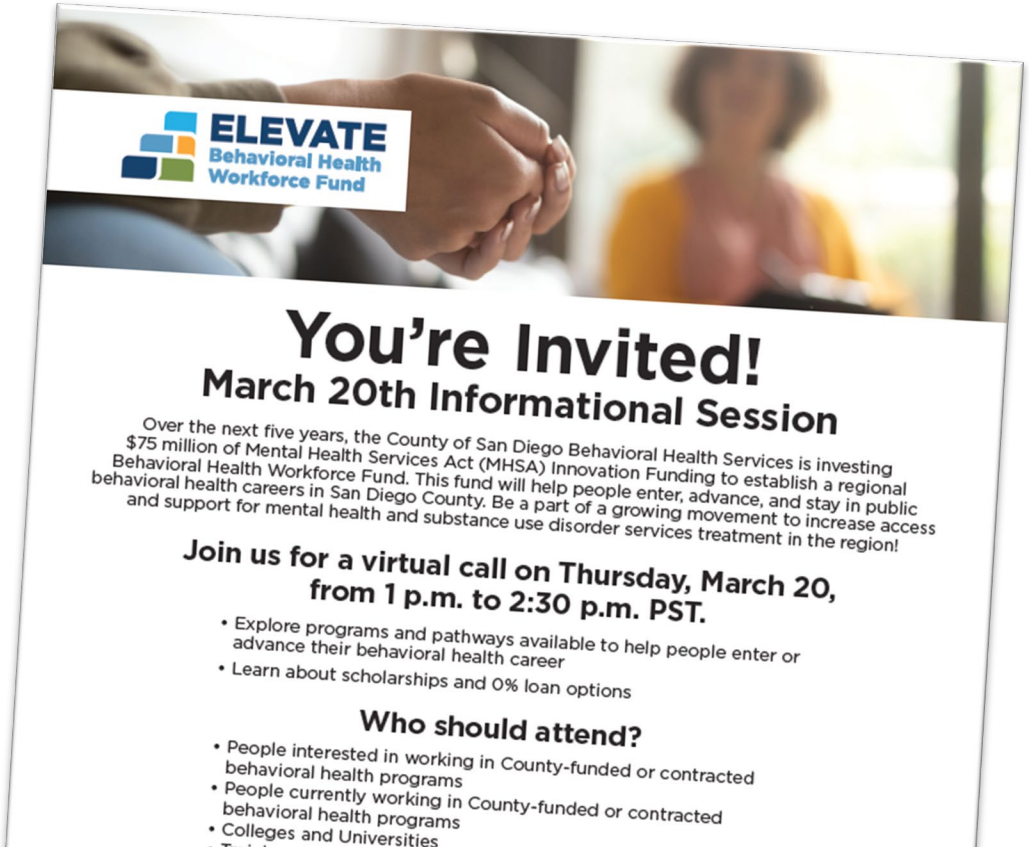


Innovation

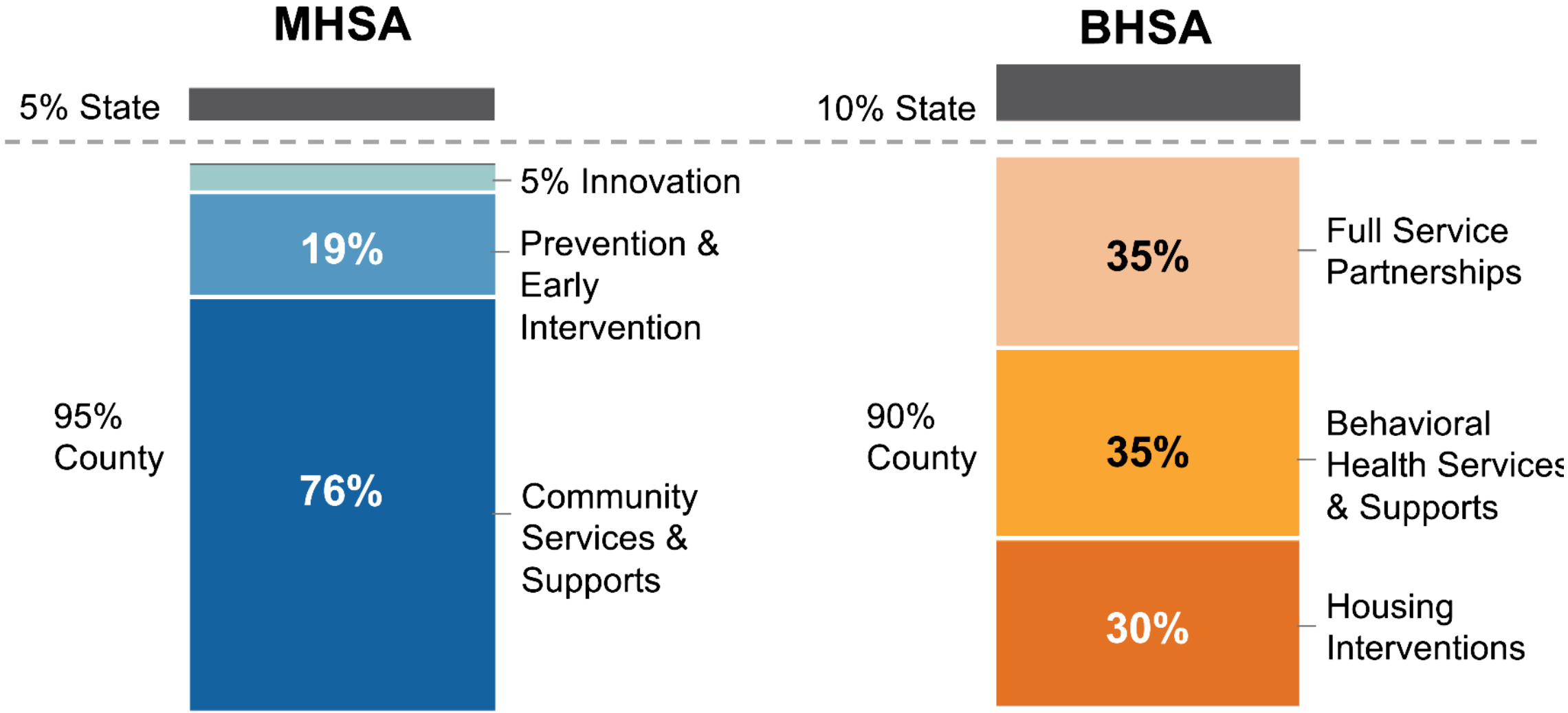
Supports new and inventive mental health programs with an evaluation component

FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 5.7% of MHSA funding ($17.4M)**
- ELEVATE Behavioral Health Workforce Fund
  - Supports recruitment and retention of behavioral health workforce
  - Includes upskilling, training, certification, and tuition reimbursement



Transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)



Implementation of BHSA

- Work underway to assess the impact of BHSA
- Prioritize programs that align with statutory requirements as specialty behavioral health plan
- Existing services will not be fully sustainable under BHSA
- Pursue new funding opportunities, when available
- Transparency with community and provider network



Recommendation

Receive and approve the MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, to submit the Annual Update to the California Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Department of Health Care Services.