COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026

MINUTE ORDER NO. 19

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT THREE-YEAR INTEGRATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2029; ADOPT RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN; AUTHORIZE THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR'S SUBMISSION OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW
In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1, which includes the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), and a $6.4 billion Behavioral Health Bond to support Californians living with the most significant mental health and substance use disorder needs. Counties across the state have been leading extensive planning and readiness efforts to prepare for implementation on July 1, 2026.

The transition from MHSA to BHSA is designed to align local systems with the statewide Behavioral Health Transformation initiative, centered on improving accountability, transparency, and clinical outcomes through a more structured funding framework. This realignment prioritizes individuals with the most significant behavioral health needs and expands the scope of care to include standalone substance use disorder treatment and robust housing interventions, specifically addressing persistent disparities among priority populations such as those experiencing homelessness or justice involvement. The transition also broadens the scope of engagement, and shifts Prevention funding to the State Department of Public Health to support more population-based efforts.

BHSA requires all counties to submit a three-year Integrated Plan (Integrated Plan) to serve as a three-year prospective expenditure plan describing how county behavioral health departments will spend all sources of behavioral health funding to meet statewide and local outcome measures, reduce disparities, and address the unmet needs in their community. The development of the Integrated Plan was informed by an extensive Community Planning Process that engaged over 1,500 individuals and 280 organizations to ensure that reinvestment activities reflect the needs of residents with lived experience.

Today's item requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) receive and approve the Integrated Plan (Attachment A) for Fiscal Years 2026-2029. In addition, today's item requests the Board adopt a resolution certifying review and approval of the Integrated Plan, and attesting the County will meet its realignment obligations as required by State law (Attachment B), and authorize the Behavioral Health Services Director, or designee, to evaluate any final revisions to the Integrated Plan requested by Department of Health Care Services and implement non-material revisions as appropriate, to submit the approved Integrated Plan to the Department of Health Care Services and to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

These actions support the County's 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. This is also in alignment with the goals of BHSA which seek to improve accountability, increase transparency, and create pathways to ensure equitable access to care for people with behavioral health needs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive and approve the Behavioral Health Services Act Three-Year Integrated Plan (Integrated Plan) for Fiscal Years 2026-2029.

2. Adopt a Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CERTIFYING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT INTEGRATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2029 to certify that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors has reviewed and approved the Integrated Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029 and attest that the County of San Diego will meet its realignment obligations as required by State law.

3. Authorize the Behavioral Health Services Director, or designee, to evaluate any final revisions to the Integrated Plan requested by Department of Health Care Services and implement non-material revisions as appropriate, to submit the approved Integrated Plan to the Department of Health Care Services and to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and to take any further administrative actions necessary to implement the Integrated Plan.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) supports the State's vision for a more equitable behavioral health system by prioritizing individuals with the greatest needs and expanding access to substance use disorder services. These efforts are intended to improve access and outcomes particularly among high-need populations, including those experiencing, or at risk of, justice involvement, homelessness, child welfare involvement, or institutionalization. BHSA also establishes a statewide population health approach that aligns expectations across the behavioral health system and emphasizes quality, equity, and data-driven improvement.

Local data indicates persistent disparities in access to behavioral health care. In 2024, the rate of individuals in San Diego County experiencing homelessness who accessed services through a continuum of care was lower than the statewide rate, with lower access among individuals ages 18-24 and 65 and older. Unmet behavioral health needs remain more pronounced among these age groups and among Hispanic individuals, including lower rates of follow-up care after mental health-related emergency department visits and a lower percentage of individuals reporting access to needed care.

The development of the BHSA Three-Year Integrated Plan is rooted in stakeholder engagement to identify community needs, advance equitable access, and continuously monitor and address disparities. Collectively, these efforts support the County of San Diego's commitment to improving equitable access to culturally responsive, trauma-informed behavioral health services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT
Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community in meaningful ways and seek stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable

communities. County Behavioral Health Services engages the community through the Community Planning Process, advisory boards, and stakeholder engagements to collaborate and encourage the community and stakeholders to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities.

Additionally, today's item supports the County Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access through the regional distribution of services, by allowing chronically unserved and underserved communities and individuals with behavioral health conditions to receive care near where they live. Services are provided at County locations, as well as through community-based providers to ensure care is geographically distributed throughout the region.

FISCAL IMPACT
Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-28 CAO Recommended Operational Plan in Behavioral Health Services. If approved, this request will result in estimated Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) costs and revenue of approximately $329.5 million in FY 2026-27. The funding source is BHSA. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

ACTION:
ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 26-057, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CERTIFYING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT INTEGRATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2029.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

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