COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, JUNE 03, 2025

MINUTE ORDER NO. 15

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides ongoing dedicated funding to counties to address a broad continuum of mental health service needs, including prevention, early intervention, system development, technology, and training to effectively support the public mental health system. MHSA programs provide services for children and their families, transition age youth, adults, and older adults, with an emphasis on individuals who are unserved or underserved. MHSA is comprised of five components, including: 1) Community Services and Supports; 2) Prevention and Early Intervention; 3) Innovation; 4) Workforce Education and Training; and 5) Capital Facilities and Technological Needs.

On June 13, 2023 (22), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-24 through 2025-26 (Three-Year Plan). As mandated by MHSA, the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is required to submit the Three-Year Plan and an MHSA Annual Update (Annual Update) to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC).

On June 4, 2024 (15 and 16) the Board approved an amendment to the Three-Year Plan and received an Annual Update for FY 2024-25. BHS is in the final year implementing the Three-Year Plan and will be submitting the Annual Update for FY 2025-26. This Annual Update includes budget and programmatic changes to the Three-Year Plan. A majority of services outlined in the Annual Update are a continuation of programs which were identified in the Three-Year Plan and include MHSA funding of $303.1 million in FY 2025-26.

Today's action requests the Board receive and approve the Annual Update for FY 2025-26 and to submit the report to the BHSOAC and DHCS. Today's item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically for 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.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Receive and approve the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update (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.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The vision of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is to build a system in which mental health services are equitable and accessible to all individuals and families across the region who are in need. Data from the California Department of Healthcare Access and Information in 2022 showed that Black

or African American residents experienced disproportionately higher rates of emergency department visits for self-inflicted injury/suicide attempt, serious mental illness, and substance related disorders compared to other groups. Additionally, the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the University of California Los Angeles in 2023, indicated that 6.4% of San Diego residents reported experiencing serious psychological distress in the past month. Notably, the prevalence of serious psychological distress was higher among residents who live below 200% of the federal poverty level, and individuals who identified as White, Hispanic/Latino, or multiracial.

MHSA funding supports timely access to culturally responsive behavioral health care for individuals who are experiencing serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or have co-occurring substance use conditions including those with opioid use disorder. The County of San Diego (County) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) serves a diverse range of vulnerable, unserved, and underserved low-income populations who include, but are not limited to, all age groups, individuals experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ+, Black or African American, Indigenous, and People of Color. County-operated and contracted behavioral health programs are designed to address the social determinants of health by ensuring services are accessible, capable of meeting the needs of communities, and are equitably distributed to those most in need.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs support 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, MHSA programs support 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 dispersed throughout the region.

FISCAL IMPACT
Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) costs and revenues of approximately $303.1 million in FY 2025-26. The funding source is MHSA. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

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

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