



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB) ACTION ITEM AUGUST 4, 2022

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM LAUNCH READY GRANT FUNDS AND MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT GRANT FUNDS, AND WAIVE BOARD POLICY B-29

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), behavioral health care in San Diego County is in the midst of a profound transformation. The County of San Diego (County) is taking action and making strategic investments to move the local behavioral health care delivery system from a model of care driven by crises to one centered on continuous, coordinated care and prevention. These efforts are guided by data, focused on equity, and designed to create collaborative work across sectors, within and outside of government.

To further advance regional distribution of services and to enhance capacity for critical crisis and inpatient services, the County is committed to supporting investments in new Medi-Cal Managed Care Psychiatric Inpatient Services and a hospital-based crisis stabilization unit (CSU) at Alvarado Hospital, LLC dba Alvarado Hospital Medical Center (Alvarado Hospital) to support the most vulnerable individuals and families who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Medi-Cal Managed Care Psychiatric Inpatient Services provide inpatient care to adults with acute symptoms of mental illness in need of 24-hour observation and intensive treatment. The services are available to Medi-Cal enrolled and eligible residents countywide and include diagnosis, care, and treatment of acute episodes. The inpatient psychiatric setting offers a secure environment where adults can regain their functioning and establish an aftercare plan before transferring to a lower-acuity level of care.

Hospital-based crisis stabilization units provide emergency psychiatric services to stabilize individuals who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis and connect them to ongoing services that meet their individual needs. Services typically last less than 24 hours and include crisis intervention, ongoing assessment and stabilization, medication administration, consultation with family and outpatient providers, and linkage and/or referral to follow-up community-based services and resources. Hospital-based crisis stabilization services reduce unnecessary hospitalizations by diverting individuals from medical emergency departments and inpatient care, whenever possible, stabilizing them and connecting them to community-based behavioral health services for ongoing care.

This action requests the Board to authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting, or designee, to enter into a single source contract with Alvarado Hospital for Medi-Cal Managed Care Inpatient Acute Psychiatric Services and hospital-based crisis stabilization services, and to establish appropriations for facility improvements at Alvarado Hospital to support the safety of and provision of quality care to individuals in need of acute inpatient care and crisis stabilization services.

The actions requested will increase regional capacity by adding new dedicated psychiatric acute

inpatient beds and hospital-based CSU recliners for individuals who are Medi-Cal eligible, improving access to critical inpatient and stabilization services for vulnerable adults countywide who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis. This collaboration with Alvarado Hospital is a unique opportunity to advance the behavioral health continuum of care in a relatively expeditious manner and aligns with the principals of ongoing behavioral health hub work across the region.

This item supports 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, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. It will advance the behavioral health continuum of care by supporting better access to care for individuals, better health for local populations, and more efficient health care resourcing in alignment with the Board's Framework for Our Future priorities.

It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that BHAB supports the approvals and authorizations needed to implement the above recommendation.