



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB) ACTION ITEM SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

### **UPDATE ON ADVANCING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM OF CARE, RECALIBRATING LONG-TERM CARE THROUGH THE OPTIMAL CARE PATHWAYS MODEL**

Under the leadership of the San Diego 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, broadly referred to as the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care (Continuum of Care), are guided by data, focused on equity and designed to engender collaborative work across silos, within and outside of government.

Today's update to the Board includes outlines the progress that the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department continues to make to advance work across the Continuum of Care. It also brings forward bold new strategies and solutions to further reform the behavioral health system by addressing underlying challenges and symptoms, specifically within the lack of specialized long-term, community-based care, and crisis diversion care capacity across the region. This requires us to *redefine long-term care* by expanding it to include community-based care services that provide continuous care and housing to people with behavioral health conditions who may have other complex health conditions.

Redefining long-term care also requires incorporating enhancements to community crisis diversion services through the addition of new peer crisis respite and transitional residential services to ensure new care pathways are available to divert individuals from unnecessary utilization of expensive acute care. These community crisis diversion services are part of a full crisis continuum that includes existing crisis stabilization units (CSUs), mobile crisis response teams (MCRTs), and crisis residential services.

To accelerate this transformation, BHS developed the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Optimal Care Pathways model, a data-informed algorithm that quantifies optimal utilization across service areas across the system. The optimal model recalibrates and expands current services along with adding new services to optimize care pathways, removes barriers to care, reduce per capita cost, and most importantly, connect individuals to the care they need, when they need it to meet their unique needs long term.

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. This will be accomplished by working across systems to support better care of individuals, better health for local populations, and more efficient health care resourcing.

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