



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB)
ACTION ITEM MAY 4, 2023**

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT THREE-YEAR PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-24 THROUGH 2025-26 (THREE-YEAR-PLAN)

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department continues making strides to advance the transformation of the behavioral health system to a system of regionally distributed services that are accessible to all individuals and families in need. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is a critical resource that provides dedicated ongoing funding to counties to support prevention, early intervention, and treatment services, along with funding for information technology and workforce development and training.

MHSA-funded programs serve children, youth, and families, transition age youth, adults, and older adults who are experiencing serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, with an emphasis on services accessible to unserved and underserved populations and care that is responsive to cultural and linguistic needs. The MHSA is comprised of five components:

- Community Services and Supports (CSS)
- Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
- Innovation (INN)
- Workforce Education and Training (WET)
- Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CF/TN)

MHSA provides funding for critical programs that serve individuals with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, supporting some of San Diego County's most vulnerable and unserved populations. MHSA supports timely access to quality behavioral health care that is responsive to cultural and linguistic needs. In support of the MHSA vision - to build a system in which mental health services are equitable, regionally distributed, and accessible to all individuals and families within the region who are in need - the County of San Diego (County), Health and Human Services Agency Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is spearheading work to proactively address and identify unmet behavioral health needs within the region, and the systemic and regional inequities that lead to these unmet needs.

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services (HHS) Behavioral Health Services is presenting the recommended MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-24 through 2025-26 (Three-Year Plan). As mandated by the MHSA, the Three-Year Plan, inclusive of all programs and expenditures funded by the MHSA, requires approval by the Board of Supervisors prior to submission to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

Since the establishment of the MHSA, it is estimated that the County will have invested over \$3 billion in MHSA programs by the end of FY 2025-26 to expand and enhance critical mental health programs for residents of San Diego County. BHS continues to shift how residents access care

and support for behavioral health needs through the continued development of a regionally distributed model of care focused on prevention and continuous care, rather than perpetual crisis. The County makes significant MHSA investments in critical prevention, treatment, housing, and support services through the implementation of the Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates.

This action requests the Board to receive and approve the Three-Year Plan, which includes MHSA funding of approximately \$274.9 million in FY 2023-2024, \$286.6 million in FY 2024-25, and \$286.6 million in FY 2025-26. The Three-Year Plan also includes \$400,000 inclusive dedicated to the California Mental Health Services Authority, to continue participation in statewide prevention and early intervention campaigns and local initiatives.

This action supports the countywide *Live Well San Diego* vision by enhancing access to behavioral health services, promoting well-being in children, adults, and families, and encouraging self-sufficiency, which promotes a region that is building better health, living safely, and thriving. MHSA supports improved access to treatment and care services for some of the region's most vulnerable, under-served, and under-resourced populations with the goal of reducing or eliminating the negative effects of the social determinants of health through a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services. This supports the Board's Framework for Our Future through emphasizing processes designed to increase transparency, while providing inclusive services that yield better outcomes and opportunities for underrepresented communities.

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