BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB)
ACTION ITEM – FEBRUARY 1, 2024

UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL CAPACITY AND NEED FOR BOARD AND CARE AND SUBACUTE SERVICES TO SUPPORT MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLE ADULTS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

In California, counties are responsible for administering specialty mental health and substance use services to residents eligible for Medi-Cal. To optimize access to care and quality as a health plan, Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is required to maintain a network of mental health and substance use services and providers that meet the needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries locally. Recent work by BHS has sought to rebalance the entire care system using a more upstream approach that emphasizes prevention and connects people to care within the least restrictive settings that meets their unique needs over the long term.

On September 27, 2022 (23), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) received an update on the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care that outlined strategies to rebalance the system and address the historical lack of parity within long-term care through enhancements to community-based care and shifts within subacute services. These strategies were informed by the Behavioral Health Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model, a data-informed algorithm that quantifies utilization across three key service areas: community crisis diversion, subacute care, and community-based care.

Further building on the OCP model, on September 12, 2023 (23), the Board approved a recommendation to assess the capacity of board and care and subacute beds that serve Medi-Cal eligible adults with behavioral health conditions in San Diego County by Supervisorial district, along with a report back with estimates on the capacity needed to adequately support individuals within the county and strategies to enhance capacity. This action provides an update on this direction.

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