



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD ACTION ITEM - OCTOBER 1, 2020**

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT THREE-YEAR PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE PLAN BOARD LETTER**

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding to counties to address a broad continuum of mental health service needs, including prevention, early intervention, system development, and to address the necessary infrastructure, technology, and training to effectively support the public mental health system. MHSA programs provide services to children, youth, and families, transition age youth, adults, and older adults, with an emphasis on individuals who are unserved or underserved. In Fiscal Year 2018-19 MHSA programs served over 78,000 unique individuals. MHSA is comprised of five components: Community Services and Supports (CSS); Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI); Innovation (INN); Workforce Education and Training (WET); and Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CF/TN).

The County of San Diego (County), Health and Human Services Agency Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department is presenting the recommended MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2022-23 (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).

The Three-Year Plan, which includes MHSA funding of over \$192.8 million also includes \$400,000 assigned to the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) to continue statewide PEI campaigns and local PEI initiatives. This includes Each Mind Matters, an initiative aimed at reducing stigma and encouraging people struggling with mental health illness to reach out for support, and "Know the Signs," a media campaign designed to educate the community on how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and where to find professional help.

Since the establishment of MHSA, the County has invested over \$1.5 billion of MHSA funding to expand and enhance critical mental health programs. Continued investments in MHSA services through the implementation of the Three-Year Plan supports the goal of dramatically shifting how residents of San Diego county 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.

Adding increased complexity this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly and disproportionately impacted our most vulnerable populations and has severely impacted financial, staffing, infrastructure and other resources vital to our system, creating new and ongoing challenges. However, BHS remains committed to the delivery of essential services since the need is more pressing than ever. To maintain continuity of essential services going forward, BHS continues to work diligently to identify short-, mid- and long-term mitigation strategies to address the anticipated decrease of MHSA revenues resulting from the pandemic, along with service

delivery, staffing and infrastructure challenges.

**It is THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that your Board support the approvals and authorizations needed to implement these recommendations.**