



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

DRAFT

DATE: October 25, 2022

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 ANNUAL UPDATE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding to counties to address a broad continuum of mental health service needs, including prevention, early intervention, and system development; and to address the necessary infrastructure, technology, and training to effectively support the public mental health system. MHSA programs provide services for children, youth, and families; transition age youth; adults; and older adults, with an emphasis on individuals who are unserved or underserved. 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).

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 populations and providing funding for previously 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.

BHS is in the third year of implementing the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan: Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-21 through 2022-23 (Three-Year Plan), approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) on October 27, 2020 (7). The MHSA FY 2022-23 Annual Update (Annual Update) presented today includes budget and programmatic changes to the Three-

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Year Plan. The majority of services outlined in the Annual Update are a continuation of programs previously approved by the Board in the Three-Year Plan. As mandated by the MHSA, the Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates require approval by the Board prior to submission to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Since the establishment of the MHSA, the County has invested nearly \$2 billion of MHSA funding to expand and enhance critical mental health programs to dramatically shift 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. The County continues to make significant MHSA investments in critical prevention, treatment, and support services through the implementation of the Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates.

Today's action requests the Board receive and approve the Annual Update, which includes MHSA funding of approximately \$230.2 million in FY 2022-2023, inclusive of \$400,000 dedicated to the California Mental Health Services Authority, to continue participation in statewide prevention and early intervention campaigns and local initiatives.

Today's 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.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive and approve the MHSA FY 2022-23 Annual Update (Annual Update) and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to submit the Annual Update to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The vision of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is 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. MHSA funding provides individuals who are experiencing serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance with timely access to quality behavioral health care that is responsive to their cultural and linguistic needs. BHS serves individuals of all ages, including the County's most vulnerable, unserved, and underserved low-income populations, such as individuals experiencing homelessness, LGBTQIA+, Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), children who are commercially sexually exploited, children and adults with justice involvement, and people with complex behavioral health needs, and vulnerable age groups. BHS services offered through County-operated and contracted programs address the social determinants

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of health by being accessible, capable of meeting the needs of a diverse population, and with the intent to equitably distribute services to those most in need.

In support of these efforts, BHS utilizes a population health approach, along with evidence-based practices, robust data analysis to identify needs and design services that are impactful, equitable, and yield meaningful outcomes for clients. This includes facilitating community engagement forums to solicit input from the community, stakeholders, consumers, family members, community-based providers, and healthcare organizations through formal and informal convenings, along with cross-collaboration with other County departments and community partners. Additionally, through the establishment of the Community Experience Partnership in collaboration with the University of California, San Diego and the recent launch of the Behavioral Health Equity Index, BHS is leading the development of a tool for measuring behavioral health equity to inform program planning, siting of services, and allocation of resources in a way that supports the most pressing community needs.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

MHSA programs provide services to children, youth, and families, transition age youth, adults, and older adults in a community-centric approach taking into consideration language and cultural barriers to ensure equitable access for those in need of behavioral health services. Services are provided at numerous county locations as well as through community-based providers thereby reducing energy consumption. Service providers are connected to the community and thus able to understand the immediate needs of our clients.

Additionally, BHS engages the community through the Community Planning Process to collaborate and encourage community and diverse stakeholders to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities. BHS makes programmatic investments in chronically unserved and underserved communities to provide just and equitable access to behavioral health services.


FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2022-24 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) costs and revenues of approximately \$230.2 million in FY 2022-23, inclusive of \$400,000 dedicated to the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), to continue participation in statewide prevention and early intervention campaigns and local initiatives. The funding source is MHSA. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

At their meeting on October 6, 2022, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board voted to  the recommendations.

BACKGROUND

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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 FY 2020-21, MHSA funded programs provided services to children, youth and families, transition age youth, adults, and older adults in San Diego County. The 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 California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5847 states that county mental health programs shall prepare and submit a Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates for programs and expenditures funded by the MHSA. The Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates must be adopted by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) and submitted to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission within 30 days of adoption by the Board. The MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan: FY 2020-21 through 2022-23 (Three-Year Plan) was approved by the Board on October 27, 2020 (7).

Today's action requests the Board receive and approve the recommended MHSA FY 2022-23 Annual Update (Annual Update). The Annual Update includes an expenditure plan of approximately \$230.2 million, programmatic and budgetary updates to the Three-Year Plan, and documentation, as required, to comply with MHSA regulations. The Annual Update includes \$400,000 as part of the FY 2022-23 amount assigned to the California Mental Health Services Authority 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.

A Community Program Planning (CPP) process is required by MHSA funding, through which counties gather input from a diverse range of stakeholders regarding the needs of regional unserved and underserved populations. BHS maintains regular contact with the public through interactive councils and advisory boards and stakeholder engagement throughout the year to inform program planning and development of the BHS continuum of care. BHS has engaged UCSD in a multi-year contract to facilitate development of an engagement framework, enhancements to the CPP process, provide MHSA trainings, and inform the strategic development of the Three-Year plan and subsequent annual updates, in addition to facilitation and threading with the Community Experience Partnership.

Throughout the year, BHS also engages in open dialogue with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), System of Care Councils, various stakeholders and stakeholder-led councils,

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organizations, and individuals in various settings to gather input and form recommendations for the utilization of MHSA funds, as required by Welfare and Institutions Code.

Since the establishment of the MHSA, the County has invested nearly \$2 billion of MHSA funding to expand and enhance critical mental health programs to dramatically shift 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. MHSA funded programs are rigorously evaluated across many areas, which include but are not limited to access, quality of service, cost, integration, utilization, clinical outcomes, and client satisfaction. Specific structural, process and outcome measures vary depending on the service and population but are standardized across levels of care. The evaluation of MHSA-funded programs demonstrates a positive impact across multiple domains, particularly for programs that treat mental health symptoms but also proactively address unmet social needs and connection to education, employment, housing, and physical healthcare.

The County remains committed to making financial, staffing, and other resources available for behavioral health services to meet the increasing demand due to stressors post-pandemic and economic uncertainty. BHS conducts ongoing extensive planning to MHSA programming to mitigate large swings in funding projections and align services with MHSA revenues. In looking forward, BHS resolves to make critical investments in services, capacity, and workforce.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action supports the County of San Diego’s (County) 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Initiatives of Equity (Health) and Community (Quality of Life) as well as the regional Live Well San Diego vision, by reducing disparities and disproportionality; and ensuring access for all through a fully optimized mental health and social service delivery system that provides programs and services for all individuals with behavioral health needs to enhance the community through increasing the well-being of our residents and our environments.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A - Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 2022-23 Annual Update