



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEEPE
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

DATE: June 4, 2024

DRAFT

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) continues making strides to advance the transformation of the behavioral health system with regionally distributed services that are accessible to all individuals and families in need.

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 and their 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,
- Prevention and Early Intervention,
- Innovation,
- Workforce Education and Training, and
- Capital Facilities and Technological Needs.

BHS is in the second year of implementing the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan: Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-24 through 2025-26 (Three-Year Plan), approved by the Board on June 13, 2023 (22). The MHSA FY 2024-25 Annual Update (Annual Update) presented today includes budget and programmatic changes to the Three-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 (MHSOAC) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Today's action requests the Board receive and approve the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25, and to submit the Annual Update to the MHSOAC and the DHCS, if approved. The Annual Update includes MHSA funding of \$299.7 million in FY 2024-25. It also includes \$400,000 dedicated to the California Mental Health Services Authority, to continue participation in statewide prevention and early intervention campaigns and local initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive and approve the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25 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 and the Department of Health Care Services.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The vision of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is to build a system in which mental health services are equitable and accessible to all individuals and families within the region who are in need. According to 2021 data from the California Department of Healthcare Access and Information, Black/African American residents experienced higher emergency department rates of serious mental illness, self-inflicted injury/suicide attempt, and substance related disorders compared to others. Additionally, according to the California Health Interview Survey conducted by the University of California Los Angeles in 2022, 9% of San Diegans reported experiencing serious psychological distress in the past month. However, residents living below 200% of the federal poverty level, those who reported a history of incarceration, or who identified as black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or multiracial, reported higher percentages of serious psychological distress compared to others.

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, 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 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.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs support the County’s Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community in meaningful ways and seek stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) engages the community through the Community Planning Process, advisory boards, and stakeholder engagements 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 underserved communities to provide just and equitable access to behavioral health services.

Additionally, MHSA programs support the County’s Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access through the regional distribution of services by allowing chronically underserved communities and individuals with behavioral health conditions to receive care near where they live. Services are provided at numerous County locations, as well as through community-based providers to ensure care is geographically dispersed throughout the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 CAO Recommended 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 \$299.7 million in FY 2024-25, 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. 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 May 2, 2024, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board voted to [REDACTED] the recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) continues making strides to advance the transformation of the behavioral health system with regionally distributed services that are accessible to all individuals and families in need.

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 and their 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)

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

- Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CF/TN)

Since the establishment of the MHSA, it is estimated that our County will have invested over \$3 billion in MHSA programs by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 to expand and enhance critical mental health programs for San Diego County residents. The County continues to make significant MHSA investments in prevention, treatment, and support services through the continued development of a regionally distributed model of care focused on prevention and continuous care, rather than perpetual crisis. Additionally, MHSA-funded programs are evaluated across several categories which include, but not limited to access, quality, cost, integration, utilization, and client satisfaction. 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.

Furthermore, a stakeholder engagement 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 unserved and underserved populations. BHS maintains regular contact with the public through interactive councils and advisory boards to inform program planning and development of the BHS continuum of care. BHS continuously engages in ongoing open dialogue with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), System of Care Councils, various stakeholders and stakeholder-led councils, organizations, and individuals in multiple settings to gather input and form recommendations for the utilization of MHSA funds. A 30-day public review and comment period of the draft Annual Update occurred from April 2, 2024 – May 2, 2024, with final comments heard at the regular BHAB meeting on May 2, 2024.

Section 5847 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code requires that county mental health programs prepare and submit a Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Updates for programs and expenditures funded by the MHSA, both of which must be adopted by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and submitted to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) within 30 days of adoption by the Board.

BHS is in the second year of implementing the MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan: Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-24 through 2025-26 (Three-Year Plan), approved by the Board on June 13, 2023 (22). The MHSA FY 2024-25 Annual Update (Annual Update) presented today includes budget and programmatic changes to the Three-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.

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Impacts of Proposition 1 Passage

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In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1, the Behavioral Health Services Program and Bond Measure, also referred to as the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). The BHSA transforms the MHSA by significantly shifting the scope of services to those with the most serious mental illness, with an emphasis on housing to support individuals experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness. It also dedicates resources for full-service partnerships, early intervention services, and support programming for individuals with substance use disorders regardless of a co-occurring mental health disorder. Included in the BHSA is a bond measure, which allows counties to finance loans or grants for capital assets for permanent supportive housing for veterans and others who are homeless with behavioral health conditions. Efforts are underway to assess the impact of BHSA, including new opportunities.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action supports the County of San Diego’s (County) 2024-2029 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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SARAH E. AGHASSI
INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A - Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2024-25