



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD ACTION ITEM MAY 7, 2020

ACTION ITEM: AGREEMENT WITH PALOMAR HEALTH BOARD LETTER

One key immediate priority of the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care is the enhancement of hospital-based crisis stabilization services in North San Diego County. Hospital-based crisis stabilization units (CSUs) provide emergency psychiatric services within a hospital's emergency or urgent care unit to individuals who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis to stabilize them and connect them to ongoing services that meet their individual needs. Services must last less than 24 hours and include crisis intervention, ongoing assessment and stabilization, medication administration, consultation with family and outpatient providers, and linkage and/or referral to follow-up community-based services and resources. Hospital-based crisis stabilization services reduce unnecessary hospitalizations by diverting individuals from emergency departments and inpatient care, whenever possible, stabilizing them and connecting them to community-based behavioral health services for ongoing care.

With the suspension and then closure of inpatient psychiatric beds and crisis stabilization units (CSUs) at Tri-City Medical Center, Palomar Health currently operates the only inpatient psychiatric service and the only CSU in North San Diego County. Due to a shortage of placement availability on Palomar Health's behavioral health unit, which provided adult inpatient psychiatric services, patients are staying longer in the CSU and impacting services. On June 25, 2019 the Board approved the expansion of crisis stabilization services at Palomar, including adding additional patient recliners. Today's recommended action seeks to address this need to enhance crisis stabilization services in the North San Diego County by authorizing the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to negotiate an amendment to, and upon successful negotiations, amend an existing contract with Palomar Health to expand hospital-based crisis stabilization services from 8 to 16 patient recliners and to include a one-time payment of \$1 million to Palomar Health to be applied toward ongoing equipment and facility costs of the new hospital-based crisis stabilization unit, adjacent to the Palomar Medical Center Escondido in the North Inland Region of San Diego County.

It is THEREFORE staff's recommendation that your board vote to support the authorizations and approvals needed to advance the recommendations in this Board Letter.