



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD ACTION ITEM JANUARY 5, 2017

SCHOOL BASED AND RESIDENTIAL/PLACEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD LETTER

Since Board of Supervisors' direction on December 12, 1995 (46), the Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services has been working on the development of a comprehensive system of care for seriously emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families. Subsequent actions by the Board provided key steps toward realizing an integrated array of outcome-based services for children and youth. In 1999, with oversight by the Board's School Subcommittee (Supervisors Cox and Jacob), a multi-faceted plan for expanding mental health services was developed. The County has worked extensively with elementary, middle and high schools, existing and potential new providers, and consumers to create an infrastructure that ensures that the entities selected to provide services on school campuses are the choice of the school districts.

On October 17, 2000 (1) the Board of Supervisors approved the expansion of services available within the Children, Youth and Families system of care using State funding. On December 13, 2005 (1), school based programs were augmented with MHSA funds to enable them to also serve non-Medi-Cal students with mental health needs. On February 24, 2009 (8) continuation of school based contracts was authorized beyond their expiration dates based on school district choice. School-based behavioral health services are provided on the campus of designated schools selected by BHS in collaboration and partnership with the school districts. This collaboration has resulted in behavioral health services currently being provided on the campuses of over 400 schools.

This item requests authorization to continue to allow school districts and BHS to jointly select the BHS providers contracted to provide services on their school campuses. This item also requests authorization to continue to allow BHS to renew, extend and establish contracts for behavioral health treatment services with the residential/placement providers. Behavioral health services are provided to clients in residential 24-hour facilities or homes licensed by the State Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division or the State Department of Health Care. Residential care programs provide 24-hour treatment for clients or residents who require a higher level of care than available in an outpatient setting. When clients who reside in a residential program/placement also require behavioral health services, it is most efficient, effective and beneficial to the client for the purpose of continuity of care, to contract with the same provider for the behavioral health treatment.

It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that the Board support: approval for school districts to continue to select, with BHS approval, behavioral health services providers for their campuses; and approval for BHS to renew, extend and establish contracts for behavioral health treatment services for clients in 24-hour residential or placement settings with those providers who are licensed by the State.