

Status Report for the Mental Health Services (MHSA) Three Year Plan

Presented to Family and Human Services Committee on June 22, 2020

The Mental Health Services Act Consolidated Planning and Advisory Workgroup (CPAW) met monthly throughout the year to review existing MHSA funded programs and contribute to the development of the MHSA Three Year Plan. Additionally, large community forums were held focused on target areas for potential inclusion in the next Three Year Plan. These forums were held in different regions of the County and focused on Suicide Prevention, Housing, and Early Childhood Mental Health. Community stakeholder recommendations made during these listening sessions were incorporated into the planning process.

Based on financial forecasts made in the Fall and Early Winter of 2019, it appeared expansion of existing services and potential new initiatives would be possible, inclusive of increased funding for housing, suicide prevention training and early childhood mental health. The MHSA Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan 2020-2023 – Draft version completed in Feb, 2020 incorporated these and was posted for a 30 day Public Comment period. Soon after, California and Contra Costa County responded to the emerging COVID 19 pandemic and further planning pended since it became clear there would be financial impact to funding for behavioral health services. Due to significantly decreased tax revenues collected by the state and distributed to the counties, it became evident that we were entering a period of financial decline which would not support the previous plan of significant growth. Consequently, the request was made to the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to postpone the required public hearing. The MHC agreed and passed a motion to postpone delivery of the 2020-2023 Three Year Plan until September, 2020. The intent was to allow time to fully understand the impact of future Realignment and MHSA funding shortfalls and adjust the plan accordingly.

Through the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), counties have requested five major areas of flexibility regarding MHSA. One of those is a postponement of one year for 3 Year Plans normally due on June 30th. We expect that agreement to be finalized in writing by the end of the month.

At the Mental Health Commission meeting on May 6th, 2020 a recommendation was made that the Board of Supervisors permit our current plan to remain in effect until at least September. The intent is to remain with the current year plan until our budget is finalized. All contracts are currently on hold, including those with MHSA funds, until we fully understand the state and local financial impact on the Behavioral Health Services Division.

We hope to return to the Family and Human Services Committee by September to present a revised version of the 3 Year Plan.

Thank you.