County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

January 22,2008

AGENDA: February 12,2008

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

SUBJECT: Update on Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Augmentation

Dear Members of the Board:

On December 11,2007, the Health Services Agency (HSA) informed your Board that an Information Notice was received from the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) dated October 18, 2007, stating its intent to release ***$64*** million additional MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) one-time funds to 58 counties for FY 07/08 to avoid loss of Integrated Services for Homeless Adults program (AB 2034). This is an interim report intended to discuss the loss of AB2034 funding and related MHSA activities.

AB 2034 Background:

On August 24, 2007 the Governor vetoed the entire $54.9 million of funding to support the AB 2034 program from FY 2007-08. This has created an immediate and unanticipated need for additional resources to avoid the loss of services for homeless persons with mental illness.

As a result DMH will release $64 million additional MHSA-CSS funds on a one-time basis to meet the needs of the program for homeless persons with mental illness. The current amount available for Santa Cruz County is $406,000. HSA must submit a plan for approval to DMH to access these funds.

MHSA Developments:

MHSA fundina for former AB 2034 Proaram:
HSA has developed a request for these one-time funds, to maintain essential services for this high need population for the remainder of the current fiscal year into FY 08-09. This plan has been presented for review to the MHSA Steering Committee, established as a public stakeholder body for MHSA planning, and will be issued for the required period of public comment.

HSA's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division is proposing that we use an existing Full Service Partnership Team (FSP) as a base for expansion to serve this population. This team is now addressing the needs of Transition Age Youth (FSP/TAY) and the

proposed expansion will most expediently allow continuation of services for the homeless mentally ill population that was once served by the Homeless Team. This Plan will be submitted to the State DMH for approval at the end of the 30-day local review, approximately March 1,2008. Once State approval is obtained, the funds will be claimed for services provided this fiscal year and will be budgeted for the services next year.

MHSA Workforce, Education and Trainina Funds:
On December 11,2007, HSA also provided you with a report on the overall MHSA planning process. Since then, a Workforce Education and Training Committee has been actively meeting and developing proposed plans for workforce development funds. The goal of this element of funding is to provide opportunities to expand the local work force with qualified individuals and provide additional training needed by existing staff for new models of care.

Once the Workforce Plan is reviewed and approved by the MHSA Steering Committee, it will be posted for its 30-day public review and comment period. A required element of that Plan is the addition of a "Workforce Education & Training Coordinator". The Health Services Agency will work with Personnel to reclassify an existing vacant position for this purpose. Personnel is aware of the proposed request and will follow routine classification practices. Any subsequent personnel action requiring Board approval will be presented for your review.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report as an interim update on MHSA planning for services to homeless individuals with mental illness and workforce development and training; and
2. Direct the Health Services Agency to report back on April 29,2008 with a comprehensive report on all Proposition 63, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) services and implementation challenges.

Sincerely,

Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.,
Health Services Agency Director

RECOMMENDED:

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

RK:LT:pb

cc: County Administrative Office
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Personnel
Health Services Agency Administration
Mental Health Administration
Local Mental Health Board

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