



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 4/17/2012

Agenda Placement: 7B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director of Health & Human Services
Health & Human Services Fiscal

REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst - 253-4720

SUBJECT: Agreement with Napa County Office of Education (Student Assistance Program)

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign an agreement with Napa County Office of Education for a maximum of \$163,200 for the term January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to expand the contractor's Student Assistance Program to offer mental health screenings, assessment and prevention and early intervention services under the County's State approved Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which became law on January 1, 2005, is designed to "expand mental health services" in California with funding provided for prevention and early intervention, services to children, services to adults and older adults, education and training, and innovative programs. Funds must be used to expand, not supplant, services or county funds. Approval of the recommended action will enable the contractor to expand its Student Assistance Program to offer mental health screening, assessments and prevention and early intervention services at Napa County Courts and community schools throughout Napa County.

Napa County Office of Education is a local vendor.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes

Where is it budgeted?	Health & Human Services Mental Health
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The requested action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to have this specific contract nor is it mandatory to contract with this contractor. However, the County receives funding and is under contract with the State to fulfill the requirements of our Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Component, of which the services to be provided through this agreement are consistent with those requirements.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	This agreement will term June 30, 2013. This agreement will be appropriately budgeted in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.
Consequences if not approved:	If this agreement is not approved, the County would need to find an alternate solution to providing these services or the County would be at risk of being in breach of contract with the State and may need to return the MHSA funds received for these services or seek approval to use the funds for another purpose.
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Mental Health Services Act of 2004 (MHSA), passed by the voters as "Proposition 63," increased overall State funding for the community mental health system by imposing a 1% income tax on California residents with more than \$1 million per year in income. The resulting revenue increased State funding for local mental health services by approximately 10%. This increase came in the wake of funding cuts in the prior three years that had decreased State funding by approximately 30%. Nevertheless, the stated intention of the proposition was to "transform" local mental health service delivery systems from a "fail first" model to one promoting intervention, treatment and recovery from mental illness. A key strategy in the act was the prioritization of prevention and early intervention services to reduce the long-term adverse impacts of untreated, serious mental illness on individuals, families and state and local budgets.

The State Department of Mental Health (DMH) implemented the MHSA by imposing an elaborate set of substantive and procedural requirements as a prerequisite to each county drawing down its share of the new tax revenues. The funds were divided into six components, for which separate assessment and planning processes were required: community program planning; community services and supports; capital facilities and technology needs; workforce education and training; prevention and early intervention; and innovation. To draw down funding, county mental health agencies were required to develop detailed plans for the use of MHSA funds in each of these components. The planning process was required to include extensive community input – in Napa County; thus far, well over 1,000 individuals have provided input into the planning process since local implementation of the MHSA began. Utilizing this state-mandated, participatory process, counties were to identify local "underserved

populations” most severely affected by, or at risk of, serious mental illness and then develop “culturally and linguistically competent approaches” to connect with and meet the needs of those underserved populations.

More specifically the MHSA calls on local mental health departments to develop services “designed to prevent mental illnesses from becoming severe and disabling.” It expects counties to improve “timely access to services for underserved populations,” to work to reduce the “stigma associated with either being diagnosed with a mental illness or seeking mental health services;” to reduce “discrimination against people with mental illness;” and “emphasize strategies” to reduce the common negative outcomes of mental illness, making specific mention of suicide, incarceration, school failure, unemployment, prolonged suffering, homelessness, and the removal of children from their homes. Among the principles and practices specifically mentioned, services must “reflect the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of mental health consumers.”

Napa County’s Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan Napa County’s plan for implementation of PEI component of the MHSA was developed with extensive local stakeholder input and community review. As required by the law, the goal of the PEI plan is to promote timely access to services for underserved demographic categories of Napa County residents. This is in keeping with the larger diversity strategy of the County’s Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), of which the mental health division is a part. The goal of the diversity strategy is to identify and reduce barriers that prevent county residents from accessing necessary and appropriate services; and to ensure that, once accessed, the services are as effective and efficient as possible.

As noted above, Napa County’s initial PEI Plan was developed in 2010 with extensive local stakeholder input and community review. The stakeholder input process included the formation of a “PEI Workgroup” comprised of the representatives of various agencies and consumer groups, as required by DMH guidelines for the implementation of the MHSA. The PEI Workgroup was the forum in which Napa County’s “underserved” populations were identified.

All PEI projects and programs have been vetted through this extensive planning process and are then reviewed during a series of meetings held by the MHSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee, another planning and oversight group mandated by the State’s MHSA process. The committee prioritizes projects and programs and then makes recommendations to the Mental Health Director, who approves all final projects for public review and comment with a public hearing as needed for MHSA Annual Plan Annual Updates. Public hearings are generally held at regular meetings of the County’s Mental Health Board, which also reviews and makes comments to the Mental Health Director on the proposed final plan. The Mental Health Director then determines whether or not comments are substantive enough to warrant changes before adopting the final plan, which is then submitted to the State DMH and the State Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission as required by statute.

The Court and Community Schools PEI Project has been developed through the process described above, and if approved, this agreement will fund expansion of Napa County Office of Education’s Community Schools Student Assistance Program (SAP). Specifically, this agreement will fund:

1. Expansion of the existing Court and Community Schools SAP to offer prevention and early intervention services to students identified as needing extra resources and support;
2. Screenings, assessments, and referrals to the SAP, monitor progress and participation in SAP services and identify organizational practice change to improve mental health outcomes for students;
3. Collaboration with community-based organizations and other Prevention and Early Intervention projects;
4. Fostering organization practice change and advocacy for appropriate policies and legislation;
5. Evaluation; and
6. Participation in the PEI Collaborative.

Napa County Office of Education is a local vendor. Napa County’s expelled and youth involved with Juvenile Justice are the target population for this project. The students attend the Napa County Court & Community Schools. This contractor has direct access to this population of students.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Collins