

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA: 6.3  
AGENDA DATE: March 6, 2018

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Apply for Grant Funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for Mental Health Services to Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for Mental Health Crisis Triage Services for Adults and Transition Age Youth

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0119**

On motion of Supervisor Withrow , Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None


1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

**MOTION:**

ATTEST:   
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

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CONSENT

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Apply for Grant Funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for Mental Health Services to Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for Mental Health Crisis Triage Services for Adults and Transition Age Youth

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the Behavioral Health Director, or his designee, to apply for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant for mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
2. Authorize the Behavioral Health Director, or his designee, to apply for the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission grant for mental health crisis triage services.

**DISCUSSION:**

Initial Outreach and Engagement Center (IOEC) Overview

The Initial Outreach and Engagement Center (IOEC) opened in August 2017 at 825 12th Street in Modesto. The IOEC provides a physical entry point that centralizes connections to housing and necessary supports, provides assessments and referrals, and helps navigate a wide-range of homelessness services available throughout the County. The IOEC has a “meet you where you are” strategy. Each day engagement teams go into the community seeking individuals in need, building trust, and creating relationships that facilitate efforts and services to escape homelessness, for the night and forever.

## IOEC Implementation and Partnership Development

The IOEC launched August 2017 by co-locating five outreach workers from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and Community Services Agency (CSA). This initial team provided services in the field to people experiencing homelessness who otherwise might not search for services by facilitating connections to housing and necessary supports. On October 31, 2017, the Housing Assessment Team (HAT) joined the IOEC and provided the staff support necessary to open the IOEC for walk-in services Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition to providing the staff support for daily operations, the HAT provides housing assessments, housing navigation, and housing and supportive services referrals.

Since the opening of the IOEC, the Community System of Care (CSOC) partners either aligned existing resources or worked together to secure new resources to add further outreach and engagement programs and staff at the IOEC. The IOEC began with five outreach staff and by early 2018, will have a team of 12 outreach workers working across multiple sectors and together in a central location. Through 2017 these partnerships were able to leverage the County's initial investment in the IOEC and secure approximately \$1.4 million in additional grant funding.

The services provided through these grant applications would supplement the current outreach staff by providing direct and street-level treatment for both substance use disorder and mental illness. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) will serve as the applicant agency for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) grant applications. Both grant opportunities are being developed concurrently, with the overall goal of increasing and enhancing services and support for individuals with varying levels of mental illness in the County.

### SAMHSA Grant

The purpose of the SAMHSA grant is to support development and expansion of County mental health services that enhance the integration of behavioral health treatment and recovery support services for individuals, youth, and families with serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbances or co-occurring disorders who are experiencing homelessness. Examples of co-occurring disorders include a serious mental illness and substance abuse disorder or a serious emotional disturbance and substance abuse disorder.

This grant program ties in with the County's Focus on Prevention goal of increasing services and supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, with the ultimate goal of improving self-sufficiency and mental health of identified individuals to move them from homelessness to treatment to permanent housing/independent living.

The goal of the grant program is to increase capacity and provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, coordinated, integrated, and evidence-based treatment services, peer support and other recovery support services, and linkages to sustainable permanent

housing. To achieve the goals listed above, grant funds will support three types of activities in the County:

1. Integrated behavioral health treatment and recovery oriented services;
2. Efforts to engage and connect clients to enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream benefits; and
3. Coordination of housing and services that support sustainable permanent housing.

The most effective way to achieve the above stated goals is to incorporate the identified activities with mental health professionals serving in a street outreach capacity, providing services and support by engaging and establishing relationships with individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness throughout the County. By increasing and enhancing staffing through existing mental health contracts with community-based providers, the following SAMHSA-required direct services will be offered for the five-year grant period:

1. Provide outreach and other engagement strategies to identify individuals, youth, and families to enroll in the program.
2. For individuals and families not eligible for enrollment, provide appropriate referrals for services and housing.
3. For enrolled individuals and families, use screening and assessment results to develop appropriate treatment approaches.
4. Assist with identifying sustainable permanent housing.
5. Provide evidence-based, integrated mental health and substance use interventions for co-occurring disorder treatment for enrolled individuals. Treatment must be provided in outpatient, intensive outpatient, short-term residential, or recovery housing programs.
6. Use an integrated primary/substance use disorder/mental health care approach in developing the service delivery plan.
7. Provide case management or other strategies to address serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and co-occurring health conditions and link with and retain individuals in housing and other necessary services.
8. Engage and enroll in health insurance, Medicaid, and other benefit programs (e.g., SSI/SSDI, TANF, SNAP).
9. Provide trauma-informed services to include an emphasis on implementation of trauma-informed approaches in programs, services, and systems, including trauma-specific interventions designed to address the consequences of trauma in the individual and to facilitate healing. This may include assessment and interventions for emotional, sexual, and physical abuse.

10. Provide services that are delivered within a family-driven, youth-guided/directed framework. Engagement of family and youth is integral to their treatment services and supports.
11. Collaborate across agencies and among crucial providers and programs to enhance service provision.
12. Provide/assure linkage to and support engagement with recovery support services to improve access to and retention in services and to continue treatment gains. This may include some or all of the following as appropriate for each enrolled individual:
  - a. Vocational, child care, educational, and transportation services;
  - b. Independent living skills (e.g., budgeting and financial education);
  - c. Employment readiness, training and placement;
  - d. Crisis care;
  - e. Medication management;
  - f. Peer-related supports and services (e.g., peer-led or peer-supported activities and hiring of peer staff);
  - g. Discharge planning; and
  - h. Psychosocial rehabilitation services.
13. BHRS will direct the activities funded through the grant proposal, and will directly oversee and manage the contract with the community-based provider supplying direct services to the homeless population. SAMHSA grant funding will be used primarily to provide mental health personnel for outreach, engagement, and treatment through a community-based contract.

#### MHSOAC Triage Grant

The purpose of the Triage Program is to support the hiring of mental health triage personnel to provide a range of triage services to individuals with mental illness or emotional disturbances requiring crisis intervention. Triage personnel can also provide case management services face-to-face, by telephone, or by tele-health.

The awarding agency is the State of California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. The grant program also ties in with the Focus on Prevention goal of increasing services and supports for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, especially those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The goal of the grant program is to strengthen and expand the County's mental health services system by augmenting existing County crisis services and creating linkages to new services through additional funding for triage personnel. Additional triage personnel

will increase the capacity for client assistance and provide intensive case management, training, and crisis intervention services for underserved populations, focusing on the homeless and at-risk of being homeless population experiencing a mental health crisis and needing immediate intervention. A majority of individuals appropriate for triage services will not require hospitalization or incarceration but can be stabilized and linked to appropriate levels of care.

To achieve the goals listed above, grant funds will support two types of activities in Stanislaus County:

1. Provide immediate support and triage services through assessments, evaluations, and referrals to the appropriate level of care, and
2. Provide services and supports that result in individuals being referred to wellness, resiliency, and recovery-oriented treatment setting that are appropriate to their needs while still being the least restrictive available.

The most effective way to achieve the above stated goals is to incorporate the following activities with the Stanislaus County Initial Outreach and Engagement Center (IOEC) and to have triage personnel co-located at the site. This will be accomplished by increasing and enhancing staffing through existing mental health contracts with community-based providers. Once the permanent Stanislaus County Access Center opens, triage personnel may co-locate at this site if deemed appropriate.

BHRS and its community-based triage personnel provider will collaborate as a multi-disciplinary team within the IOEC with law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, homeless shelters, and other local mental health and social service providers. The partners will assist in developing and delivering the proposed crisis intervention services. Triage personnel will also work with the existing outreach and engagement teams to develop relationships and engage individuals to seek out mental health services and support. Grant funding will be used primarily to provide triage personnel through a community-based contract.

#### **POLICY ISSUE:**

Board of Supervisors approval is required to apply for, enter into, and sign grant applications and agreements.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

For the SAMHSA grant, BHRS will be applying for up to \$500,000 per year for a five-year period beginning September 30, 2018, and ending September 29, 2023. Each year of funding is contingent upon the program meeting grant program objectives annually. If the County is awarded the maximum amount available per year, the total grant funding for the five-year period will be \$2,500,000.

For the MHSOAC Triage Grant, BHRS will be applying for up to approximately \$800,000 in funding per year for a three-year period beginning June 30, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021. Funding may only be used for triage personnel. Each year of funding is contingent upon the program meeting grant program objectives annually. If the County is awarded the maximum amount available per year, the total grant funding for the three-year period will be \$2,400,000.

There is no cost to the County general fund and no match funds are required for these grants. If the grants are awarded, BHRS will return to the Board of Supervisors seeking authority to accept the award and will request revenue and appropriations increases at that time or in an appropriate budget cycle.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

This agenda item supports the Board's priority of *Supporting Community Health* by seeking additional funding to deliver the needed mental health services at appropriate levels in a cost-effective manner.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

The grants will be managed by existing BHRS staffing resources. The grant funding will be utilized to expand services provided by community-based contractors.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Rick DeGette, MA, MFT                      Behavioral Health Director                      209-525-6205

**Approval to Apply for Mental Health  
Services Grants for Services to  
Individuals Experiencing  
Homelessness**

**Behavioral Health and Recovery Services  
Board of Supervisors Presentation  
March 6, 2018  
Cherie Dockery, Associate Director  
Mandip Dhillon, Assistant Director  
Ruben Imperial, Deputy Executive Officer**



# Background

- Initial Outreach and Engagement Center
  - Opened in August 2017 at 825 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto
  - Centralized services to homeless individuals in need
  - Co-location of BHRS and CSA outreach workers
  - Housing Assessment Team (HAT) added to center for critical housing navigation services
  - Aligned with County's Focus on Prevention goals

# SAMHSA Grant

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant – BHRS to serve as applicant agency
- Potential \$2.5 million of grant over 5 years
- Supports goal of increasing mental health and recovery support services to individuals experiencing homelessness

# SAMHSA Grant

- Funding will be used to increase number of mental health professionals in a street outreach capacity and case management
- Supplements current outreach staff by providing direct street-level treatment for substance abuse and mental illness
- Goal to increase capacity and provide coordinated treatment and recovery support services and linkages to sustainable housing

# MHSOAC Triage Grant

- Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Grant
- Potential \$2.4 million over 3 years
- Supports hiring of mental health triage personnel
- Supports individuals experiencing a mental health crisis

# MHSOAC Triage Grant

- Mental health triage services provide assessments, evaluations and referrals to the appropriate level of care
- Individuals appropriate for triage services will be stabilized and linked to services vs. hospitalization or incarceration
- Goal to strengthen and expand mental health services

# Grant Funding Uses

- Both grants provide funding for a limited period, 3-5 years
- Provides new program specific funds for the priority population currently not engaged in services
- Provides for services and supports in the least restrictive wellness, resiliency, and recovery-oriented treatment settings that are appropriate to the homeless shelter low-barrier settings

# Staff Recommendations

1. Authorize the Behavioral Health director or his designee to apply for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant for mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

# Staff Recommendations

2. Authorize the Behavioral Health Director, or his designee to apply for the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) grant for mental health crisis triage services.



**Questions?**