



AGENCY ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
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February 14, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE CREATION OF A TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE HOME (THE TRUST CLINIC) TO MEET THE HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, AND SSI ADVOCACY NEEDS OF HOMELESS AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the creation of a transitional health care home (the TRUST clinic) with primary care, behavioral care, housing, and SSI advocacy services for homeless and disabled persons
2. Approve the addition of pay units for seven full time equivalent positions for project start-up and initial service delivery to be fully funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA);
3. Approve the budget adjustments of \$999,062, which includes funding for pay units referenced above and non-personnel costs associated with the creation of the TRUST clinic.

SUMMARY:

HCSA is requesting approval of the creation of a transitional health care home with primary care, behavioral care, housing, and SSI advocacy services for homeless and disabled persons in the North County area. This is the second of two transitional medical home programs; the first of which was funded by your Board on 12/6/11 to be operated through a community-based organization partnership serving the South County area. The second proposed project is a collaboration between Health Care Services Agency (Agency Administration, Behavioral Health and Public Health), Social Services Agency (SSA), and community-based organizations, and will provide the County with significant General Fund savings as eligible clients are moved from General Assistance (GA) to Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Start-up funding will be provided by one-time Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding, and the clinic will be sustained on-going by Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) billing, Medi-Cal managed care billing, and Tobacco Master Settlement funding.

DISCUSSION:

The Board of Supervisors GA Blue Ribbon Task Force recommended the creation of health care service centers that could provide comprehensive health assessments for GA recipients applying for disability benefits and link them with ongoing health care services. In Alameda County, there are an estimated 16,000 homeless individuals. An estimated one-third of individuals on General Assistance (GA) in Alameda County are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) but are not receiving it. A recent report issued by the Economic Roundtable indicates that Alameda County could have general fund savings of approximately \$3.2 million/month if eligible individuals in the monthly GA caseload move onto SSI and Medi-Cal. The savings would come from savings in indigent health care costs and the GA program. In addition to reducing county costs, helping individuals to obtain SSI increases their personal incomes, stimulates economic activity, and provides individuals with health care coverage through federal health care programs.

HCSA seeks the Board's approval to invest in the creation of such a health care service center, to be called the TRUST Clinic, in Oakland, focused on meeting the health care (primary care and mental health), housing, social service, and SSI advocacy needs of GA recipients and homeless individuals and families. Your Board approved a South County effort on 12/6/11 which will be operated collaboratively between Abode Services and Tri-City Health Center in Fremont.

The TRUST Clinic will be developed within the Public Health Department Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP), which has extensive experience working with homeless individuals, individuals with disabilities, and GA recipients. SSA will refer GA clients to the clinic. The clinic will help transition individuals to other health care and social service providers once their health conditions and living situations become more stable. The clinic will focus on helping individuals to obtain comprehensive health assessments, receive necessary health services, obtain federal disability and other benefits, and receive resources to stabilize their lives including, housing case management. Community-based organizations providing benefits advocacy will be housed within the clinic; negotiations are currently underway with three providers. Once fully operational, the clinic should contribute to significant reductions in county costs associated with GA and indigent health care services.

HCSA has developed a model for on-going fiscal sustainability for the clinic. Start-up funding for two years in the amount of \$4.5 million total has been committed from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) one-time funding. The clinic will build on the existing HCHP and its designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This status will allow the clinic to establish an all-inclusive billing rate that includes care management and integrated health services. In addition, approximately one third of the clients are anticipated to be covered by Medi-Cal managed care currently, with the majority of client transitioning to managed care in 2014. A further critical sustainability strategy includes obtaining certification as a provider for the Alameda Alliance for Health enabling the clinic to bill for managed care covered services.

In FY11-12, the clinic will be in the start-up phase and initial activities will focus on 1) locating a downtown Oakland service site, in partnership with the General Services Agency (GSA), 2) the development of clinic protocols, 3) staff hiring and training, 4) providing services from an existing location at St. Vincent's. The proposed start-up budget includes seven full time equivalent employees who will be sought first from existing qualified County employees, and will be hired on a project basis until clinic viability has been confirmed. When the GSA site procurement identifies a location, a second Board letter will come before your Board which will request additional positions and operating expenses associated with the permanent clinic site.

FINANCING:

The FY11-12 budget appropriation will increase by \$999,062 and will be covered by the same amount of MHSA revenue. The FY12-13 budget will include \$3,637,777 in appropriation and revenue, covered by a combination of MHSA, FQHC billing and Medi-Cal managed care reimbursements. There will be no increase to County General Fund.

Respectfully submitted



Alex Briscoe, Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

AB: RG

cc: County Administrator
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATION

AGENDA DATE: 2/28/2012

Subject of Board Letter:

APPROVE THE CREATION OF A TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE HOME (THE TRUST CLINIC) TO MEET THE HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, AND SSI ADVOCACY NEEDS OF HOMELESS AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

BY: 2012

FUND: 10000

The use of Designations, as follows:

NAME OF DESIGNATION	ORG	AMOUNT

The increase (decrease) in anticipated revenue, as follows:

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
350251	469990	00000		\$999,062
ORG TOTAL				\$999,062

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
ORG TOTAL				\$0

GRAND TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE \$999,062

The increase (decrease) in appropriations, as follows:

Informational

	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
350200	600000	00000		\$266,531
	610000	00000		\$545,033
	630021	00000		\$4,998
	630051	00000		\$62,500
	650031	00000		\$120,000
ORG TOTAL				\$999,062

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
ORG TOTAL				\$0

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$999,062