



AGENCY ADMIN. & FINANCE
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Agenda: _____ November 20, 2012

October 25, 2012

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

SUBJECT: INCREASE OF 10 POSITIONS TO IMPLEMENT A COMPONENT OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH INTEGRATION PROGRAM UNDER HEALTH PROGRAM OF ALAMEDA COUNTY (HEALTH PAC)

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the creation of ten new (10) Physician III consulting psychiatrist positions to be funded with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for the implementation of strategies to integrate services and increase coordination between behavioral and primary health care systems;
2. Approve a budget adjustment of \$1,296,400 to fund the ten new positions at a cost of ten half-time positions (0.50 Full Time Employee's (FTE) or 5.0 FTEs total) per the attached financial recommendation.

SUMMARY:

The Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) Department is requesting approval to create 10 new Physician III positions to work as behavioral health consultants. The new positions are required because there are insufficient existing positions in the Health Care Services Agency in the classification of Physician III to fulfill the need. The ten positions will be funded at a cost of 0.50 FTE each, for a total of 5.0 FTE's, and will work either part-time or full-time, depending on need.

The Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) and BHCS, in collaboration with participating Health Program of Alameda County (HealthPAC) providers, have developed long-term programs within the context of health care reform to expand access to health care services for low-income individuals with serious behavioral health issues. These physicians will work in one or more primary care clinic sites and in substance use treatment programs.

DISCUSSION:

HCSA oversees a wide array of health care programs throughout the County that depend on federal and state policy and health care financing. The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (health care reform), signed into law in March 2010, represents one of the most significant changes in U.S. health care policy since the creation of Medicaid and Medicare. In addition, the State of California has moved toward merging the state Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs with the Department of Health Care Services.

California obtained a Section 1115 waiver from the federal government to undertake innovative programs within Medi-Cal. Many of these health care policy changes are designed to expand access to health care services while simultaneously controlling costs, improving outcomes, and enhancing the patient health care experience.

Within this context of health care reform, there is an increased emphasis on improving health outcomes for low-income individuals with behavioral health conditions through greater integration of services and increased coordination between behavioral health and primary care service systems. HCSA and BHCS in collaboration with participating HealthPAC health care providers have developed a Program to help achieve and support this aim over the long-term. The Program includes: 1) A \$2.7 million mini-grant investment program to help HealthPAC clinics hire and retain behavioral health practitioners working within an integrated care program model; 2) Creation of a BHCS Program team that will oversee the effort; 3) Hiring of primary care consultation psychiatrists that will work as behavioral health consultants in primary care settings; 4) Ongoing training, consultation, and strategic capacity building for primary care clinics and providers; 5) Support for hiring and retaining behavioral health professionals in primary care settings; and 6) Support for providing improved primary care health care services for individuals with serious behavioral health issues.

This board letter represents a request for program element #3 above. Specifically, this board letter requests the approval of the creation of 10 Physician III consulting psychiatrist positions within the HCSA behavioral health department with a total of 5.0 FTE in funding. The consulting psychiatrists will work in one or more HealthPAC primary care clinic sites and in substance use treatment settings. They will provide behavioral health training, consultation, and limited direct patient care for patients seen in primary care and substance use treatment programs. The consultants will assist with the implementation of integrated care models and will help foster stronger working partnerships between primary care providers and the specialty behavioral health system. The positions will be funded through a combination of MHSA funding, health insurance revenue, and partnership agreements with primary care clinics.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:

Does not apply.

FINANCING:

These new positions will be funded initially through MHSA Community Support Services, until department leverages the primary care operations to draw other funding sources. There is no increase in net county cost.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Briscoe, Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

AB: RR/ddc
cc: County Administrator
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

Attachment: Fin Rec

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATION

AGENDA DATE: Nov. 20, 2012

MHSA-Increase of 10 Positions to Implement Component of the Primary Health Integration Program under Health PAC (Health Program of Alameda County)

Subject of Board Letter:

BY: 2013

FUND: 10000

The use of Designations, as follows:

NAME OF DESIGNATION	ORG	AMOUNT

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

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
350551	452120			\$1,296,400
ORG TOTAL				\$1,296,400

Informational

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

GRAND TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE \$1,296,400

The increase (decrease) in appropriations, as follows:

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
350500	600000	00000		\$1,296,400
ORG TOTAL				\$1,296,400

Informational

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

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$1,296,400