

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' HEALTH COMMITTEE

Monday, January 25, 2016
9:30 a.m.

Supervisor Wilma Chan, Chair
Supervisor Keith Carson

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor
County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Public Authority Update

[Attachment](#)

Flora Maiki, Executive Director, Public Authority for In-Home Support Services, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Authority's Stakeholder Working Group.

The Public Authority Stakeholder Structure Process was approved by the Board of Supervisors in July 2015. The Public Authority/County Stakeholder workgroup will examine, study and recommend strategic revisions to its structure and relationship within the Social Service Agency, the Governing Body, and its Community Advisory Board.

The first Stakeholder Workgroup meeting was held in October 2015 and will meet monthly through February 8, 2016. Workgroup leaders meet bi-monthly to define next meeting steps, identify/design planning tools, and secure supplemental information needed.

The overall goal is to strengthen the ability for the Public Authority to fulfill its mission to consumers providers and the community and to create a successful collaboration and harmonization with the Public Authority and County based on approved measurable goals.

The Public Authority Stakeholder Workgroup will provide recommendations to the Health Committee on the structure process in May or June 2016.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Health & Social Services Committees Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. General Assistance Housing Subsidy Program Update

[Attachment](#)

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency, Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director, Health Care Services Agency, Andrea Ford, Assistant Agency Director, Workforce & Benefits Administration, Social Services Agency, Janet Bilbin, Management Analyst, Behavioral Health Care Services and John Engstrom, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health Care Services presented a PowerPoint presentation on the County's General Assistance Housing Subsidy Program.

Since the County began the SSI Advocacy Program in January 2012, 3,292 clients have been served. There have been 1,559 clients approved for SSI payments, resulting in a minimum increase in income of \$553 per month. The program has resulted in \$4,309,741 in reimbursed General Assistance benefits. There are 1,402 clients pending SSI approval.

The General Assistance Housing Subsidy Program was created with the collaboration of Social Services and the Health Care Services Agency to allow the County to convey the benefits of receiving SSI Advocacy early by adding additional funds to clients' existing GA grant. The increase in funds would result in a higher success rate.

The year following the receipt of GA Housing Subsidy Program results were as follows:

- 79.2% of clients experienced fewer psychiatric emergency events (42 of 53)
- 73.7% of clients experienced fewer hospitalizations (14 of 19)
- 84.8% of clients experienced fewer incarcerations (28 of 33)
- 61% lower failure rate of their SSI cases.

The Agencies are proposing to expand the GA Housing Subsidy Program for the re-entry population. When SSI recipients are incarcerated for a full calendar month, their SSI benefits are suspended. Many people are not reinstated on their own accord and they apply for General Assistance benefits. .

The Agencies propose a two strategy approach to expanding the program for the reentry population as follows:

For persons suspended within last 12 months

- Administrative Reinstatement
- SSA Contractor deployed to assist with reinstatements
- Avoids the need for people to sign up for General Assistance benefits

For persons suspended more than 12 months ago

- Disability Application
- BHCS Contractors deployed to assist with disability process
- Board approved 12 full-time equivalent positions for expansion to BHCS contracts

Currently there are over 2,000 clients in the queue awaiting SSI Advocacy. The SSI Advocacy program estimates approximately 90-100 clients are identified each month who need SSI Advocacy. By leveraging federal dollars to cover half the cost of advocacy services, revenue recovered from SSI Advocacy exceeds the cost of contracted services. The Social Services Agency plans to expand SSI Advocacy sufficiently to eliminate the queue and reduce the amount of time General Assistance clients wait for SSI Advocacy.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Health & Social Services Committees Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. **Countywide Plan for Seniors Update** [Attachment](#)

Randy Morris, Assistant Agency Director, Adult and Aging Services, Tracy Murray, Director, Area Agency on Aging and Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director, Health Care Services Agency presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Countywide Plan for Seniors.

The presentation included information on the planning committee, planning process, consumer survey results, focus groups, draft goals & objectives.

The Countywide Plan for Seniors is expected to be completed and submitted to the full Board of Supervisors in May of 2016.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Recommendation from Health Committee: Approved. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Rose, past member of the Alameda County Mental Health Board, would like to know what the BHCS is doing to reduce hospitalizations and re-hospitalizations.

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