

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

DEPT: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services BOARD AGENDA # *B-12

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 5, 2012

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Increase the Managed Care Services and Public Guardian Budgets within the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Budget in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as a result of Increased Psychiatric Hospitalizations and Extended Legal Cases, Funded by Departmental Fund Balance

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve budget adjustments in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Managed Care and Public Guardian budgets for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.
2. Direct the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations by \$300,000 in the Managed Care Services budget to reflect increased use of Departmental Fund Balance as detailed in the Budget Journal form.

(Staff Recommendations Continued on Page 2)

FISCAL IMPACT:

For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, it is recommended that appropriations be increased by \$300,000 in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Managed Care Services budget. It is also recommended that appropriations be increased by \$15,000 in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Public Guardian budget. Both increases will be funded by the Department's Mental Health Services Fund Balance which has a current unreserved balance of \$2,307,507.

(Fiscal Impact Continued on Page 2)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2012-276

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withdraw, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman O'Brien

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

3. Direct the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations by \$15,000 in the Public Guardian budget to reflect increased use of Departmental Fund Balance as detailed in the Budget Journal form.

FISCAL IMPACT (Continued):

Necessary appropriations adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Adopted Budget are detailed in the attached Budget Journal form. There is no impact to the County General Fund associated with this request.

DISCUSSION:

Managed Care

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) is requesting to add \$300,000 in appropriations to the Managed Care Services budget. The additional appropriations will cover the increasing cost associated with the increased number of inpatient admissions at both Doctors Behavioral Health Center and out-of-county psychiatric facilities for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The Department has experienced a dramatic increase in psychiatric hospitalizations during this fiscal year. At the time of the Final Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the average daily census for hospitalizations at local and out-of-county hospitals was approximately 19 individuals per day. This number has been steadily increasing since December 2011 and has at times been above 40. At the same time, the percentage of uninsured individuals has increased from approximately 51% to 54%. The County has 100% fiscal responsibility for uninsured patients, so any increase in the percentage is an impact to the Department and County. The increased census and shift in funding mix has severely impacted this budget. Department staff has been meeting regularly to identify trends that may be contributing to this phenomenon and focusing on ensuring that staffing for evaluations of individuals needing secure mental health services is appropriate.

County staff from the Chief Executive Office, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Doctors Medical Center, Doctors Behavioral Health Center, and health-care experts are involved in a strategic planning effort to develop strategies and options for a broader continuum of care for the growing demands for 24-hour/7-day a week secure mental health services. The goal is to develop and implement alternatives to acute psychiatric hospitalization and a broader continuum of care. Two meetings have been held with

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key stakeholders from local hospitals. A written plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in late July. Finding the right balance of inpatient services paired with outpatient services is crucial.

While the economy does play a large role, no one factor stands out. However, it has been determined that this trend is statewide. As a result, the department is requesting to use fund balance to increase appropriations in the Managed Care Services budget by \$300,000 to cover the increased cost through June 30, 2012. This request is in addition to the \$1,600,000 added in previous quarterly budget submittals.

Public Guardian

Additionally, the Department is requesting to add \$15,000 to the Public Guardian budget. The additional appropriations will cover an increase in County Counsel charges stemming from two recent jury trials and a prolonged Probate case requiring extensive County Counsel time. The Office of Public Guardian is a mandated county function that receives no direct funding other than from the County General Fund and a small amount of fee revenue earned from court accountings. As a result, the budget for this function is minimal. Any unforeseen increase can be significant and requires budget modifications. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services works in a highly collaborative manner with the Office of Public Guardian to ensure that Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) conservatees are placed in the least restrictive setting for as short of time as possible, in order to terminate conservatorships when the individual no longer meets legal criteria for this highly restrictive legal status. This results not only in the individual being able to return to community-based living situations and resume voluntary mental health services, but also often results in significant BHRS cost savings, since all LPS locked placement costs are borne by the Department and are not reimbursable by Medi-Cal. Due to the potential impacts if not managed appropriately, the Department has chosen to support shortfalls in the Public Guardian budget through departmental Fund Balance reserves. The Department recognizes that this is not a sustainable funding source.

POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of this item will meet the Board's priorities of a Healthy Community and a Safe Community by ensuring that the County meets its mandate for Crisis Stabilization, Hospitalization and Public Guardian services by providing access to services and protection for Stanislaus County residents.

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STAFFING IMPACTS:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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