

**CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EXHIBIT/DOCUMENT LOG**

**MEETING DATE & AGENDA NO. 06/03/2025 #15**

**STAFF DOCUMENTS (Numerical)**

No.	Presented by:	Description:
1	Staff	12-page PowerPoint

2

3

4

5

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (Alphabetical)**

No.	Presented by:	Description:
A	Justin Castro	1-pages email

B

C

D

E

F

OFFICIAL RECORD  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego

Exhibit No. 1

Meeting Date: 6/3/2025 Agenda No. 15

Presented by: Staff



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## **Item #15: Receive and Approve the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Districts: All)**

Kimberly Giardina, DSW, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency  
Nadia Privara, MPA, Acting Director, Behavioral Health Services  
Cecily Thornton-Stearns, LMFT, Assistant Director and Chief Program Officer, Behavioral Health Services

June 3, 2025

# Overview of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)



- Funded by 1% state tax on personal income over \$1.0M
- Serves all ages and addresses broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and workforce education and training
- More than 66,000 people annually receive care through MHSA-funded services
- Final MHSA Annual Update before transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)

**\$3.0B**

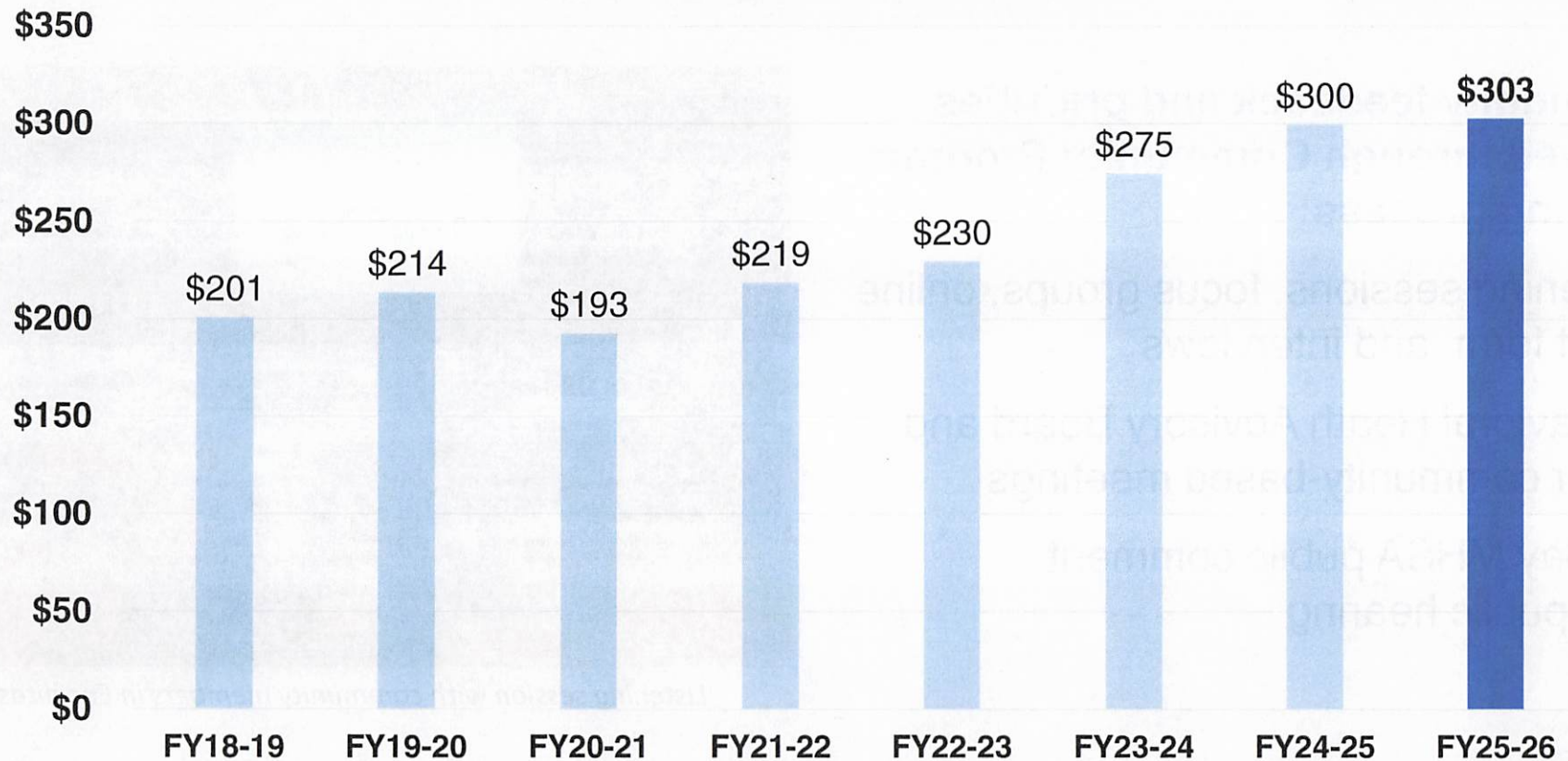
County's total investment in MHSA programs since 2004



# MHSA Budget Over the Years



MHSA Budget (\$ in Millions)



# Community Input Vital to MHSA Update



## Community feedback and priorities received through Community Program Planning process:

- Listening sessions, focus groups, online input form, and interviews
- Behavioral Health Advisory Board and other community-based meetings
- 30-day MHSA public comment and public hearing



*Listening session with community members in Encinitas*



# Community Services and Supports (CSS)



Treatment and support services for people of all ages with a serious mental health condition

## FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 75% of MHSA funding (\$227.1M)**
- Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU)
- Treatment Services
- Housing Assistance



*East CSU groundbreaking*

# Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)



Supports outreach, education, and engagement to communities

## FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 17% of MHSA funding (\$51.0M)**
- Community Outreach and Messaging
- Youth Engagement Ambassador Program
- Family Peer Support Program



*County BHS staff at an outreach event with students*



# Workforce Education and Training



## Education and training for the public mental health workforce

### FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 2.5% of MHSA funding (\$7.6M)**
- Maintains existing workforce programs:
  - Public Mental Health Academy
  - Community Psychiatry Fellowship Program



# Innovation

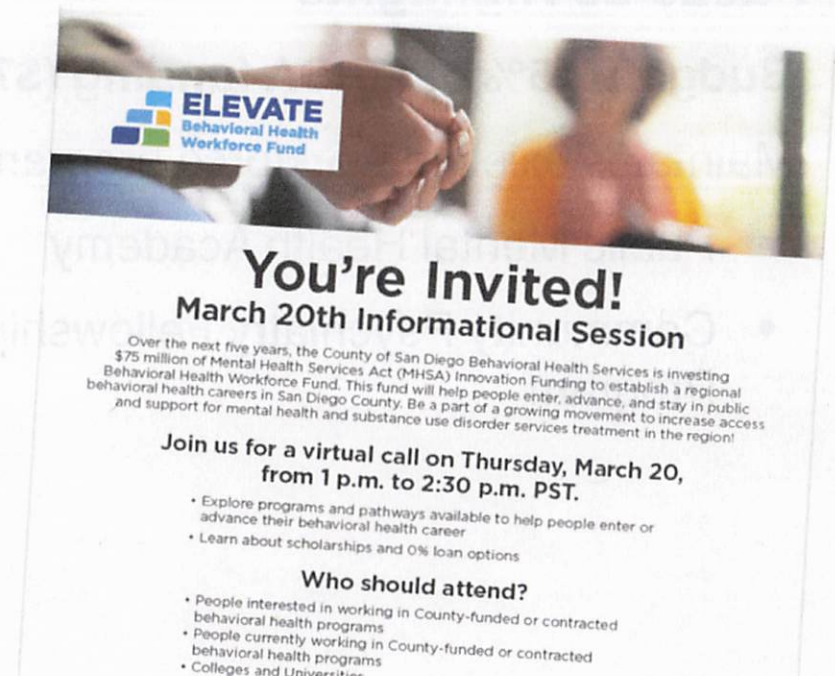


LIVE WELL  
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Supports new and inventive mental health programs with an evaluation component

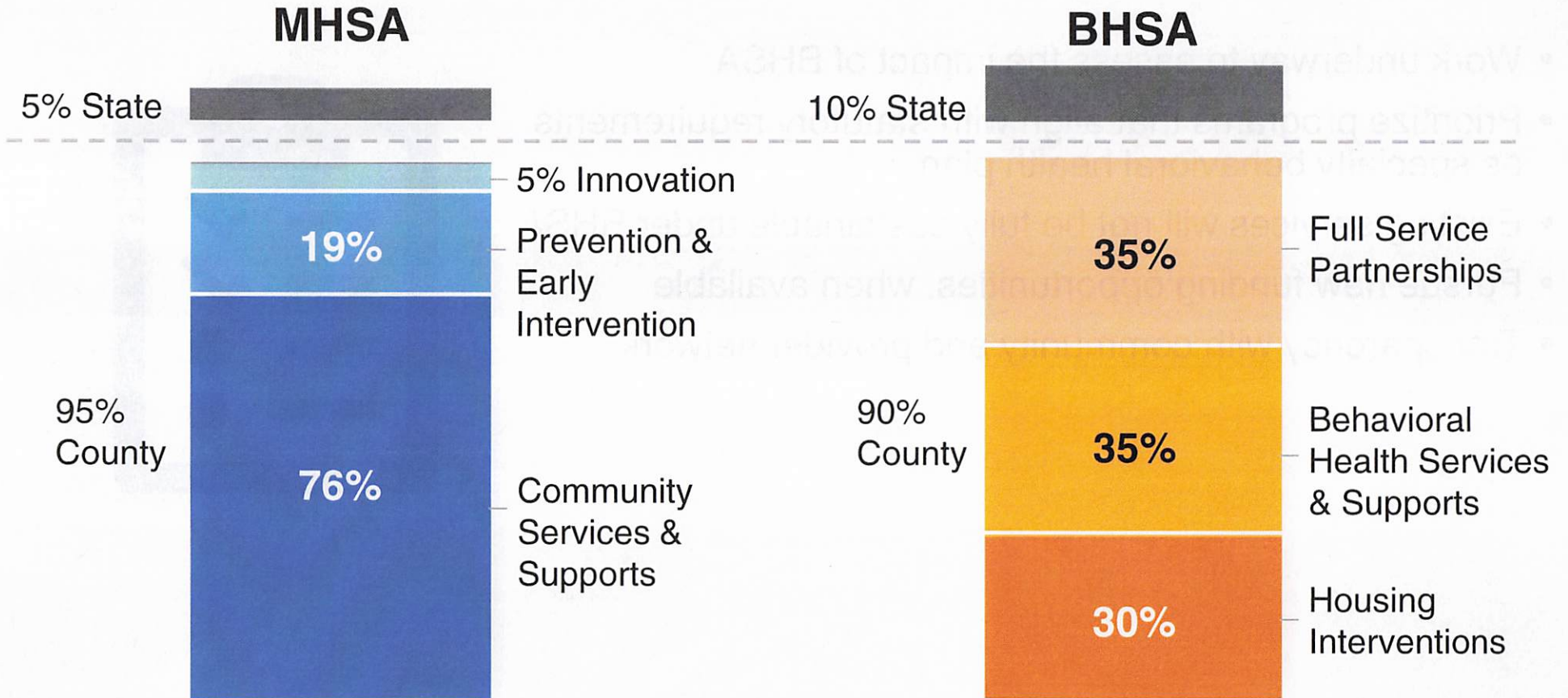
## FY 2025-26 Highlights

- **Budget: 5.7% of MHSA funding (\$17.4M)**
- **ELEVATE Behavioral Health Workforce Fund**
  - Supports recruitment and retention of behavioral health workforce
  - Includes upskilling, training, certification, and tuition reimbursement





# Transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)





# Implementation of BHSA



- Work underway to assess the impact of BHSA
- Prioritize programs that align with statutory requirements as specialty behavioral health plan
- Existing services will not be fully sustainable under BHSA
- Pursue new funding opportunities, when available
- Transparency with community and provider network



## Recommendation



Receive and approve the MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, to submit the Annual Update to the California Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Department of Health Care Services.



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June 3, 2025



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Exhibit No. A  
Meeting Date: 6/3/2025 Agenda No. 15  
Presented by: Justin Castro

**From:** [Justin Castro](#)  
**To:** [EGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Please display when I talk about mental health. Item 15  
**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:56:11 PM

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San Diego's mental health crisis is growing, with a 20% rise in service use from 2019–2022, fueled by economic stress and social division. Michael Vu, Registrar of Voters from 2007–2021, boosted vote-by-mail, achieving a record 84.5% voter turnout in 2020, up 5.2 points from 2016's 79.3%. Yet, despite his qualifications, Vu was denied the Chief Administrative Officer role in 2023. He alleges Supervisor Nora Vargas favored a Hispanic or Black candidate, saying Asians "don't count" for diversity, and Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer retaliated after he rejected a political deal. This suggests race can overshadow merit, contradicting Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to judge by character. Such divisions, tied to DEI policies, may worsen social stress and mental health. While our \$300 million mental health budget helps, only unity and merit-based decisions can address these root issues.