

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 9

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACT FUND 2.0
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Behavioral health covers a broad spectrum of mental health and addiction services. In recent years, behavioral health has come into full focus by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) as the issues surrounding addiction and mental health continue to significantly impact our community. In response to this, the Board has taken measures to address those challenges.

In 2019, I brought forward a board letter to create the Behavioral Health Impact Fund in partnership with the City of San Diego, which was seeded with \$25 million in funding to spend on impactful programs. This fund has successfully supported innovative behavioral health services and has created traditional housing units, crisis treatment vans, and technology for mental health and addiction services. Now that these funds are almost completely expended, I am proposing to close out the existing fund and establish a new fund wholly controlled by the County, the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 (BHIF 2.0), which would feature lightly modified criteria that can ensure funds are quickly deployed for priority projects along the behavioral health continuum.

Without funding, some of these necessary projects may never come into fruition, thus leaving the region with serious gaps in care. Establishing the BHIF 2.0 to expeditiously award grants to projects within the continuum of services, including workforce, services, and infrastructure, in line with the recently adopted Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model, will benefit the region and everyone who relies upon the County for behavioral health support.

Today's recommendation asks the Chief Administrative Officer to establish BHIF 2.0, and authorize the issuance of requests for proposals for the continuum of services, including behavioral health workforce programs, supports, and/or infrastructure projects. Staff are asked to report back to the Board every 120 days on the status of awards granted to monitor progress toward meeting our goals.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER

1. Pursuant to Government Code section 26227, find that the proposed Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 is necessary to meet the social needs of the County's population.
2. Establish the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 grant program.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board within 120 days with proposed evaluation and selection criteria for the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0.

4. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to availability of funding, to issue request(s) for proposals for continuum of care services, which includes behavioral health workforce programs, services, and/or infrastructure projects, to award agreements to successful proposers on an ongoing basis, and to amend the grant agreements as necessary.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to administer the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0, including the evaluation of proposals and the administration of the resulting agreements.
6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a written report to the Board of Supervisors every 120 days on the status of awards, including the total number of awards granted, types of projects awarded, a description of recently awarded projects, and amount of funds remaining.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) serves as the specialty behavioral health plan for Medi-Cal eligible residents within San Diego County who are experiencing serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. Our Medi-Cal recipients are some of our most vulnerable representatives of our society, and as a steward of public health, the County must ensure that the resources and services offered through County-operated and contracted programs promote equitable outcomes, advance wellness across the spectrum of need, and are equitably distributed. The Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 would allow for the immediate allocation of support and services to communities disproportionately impacted by historic underinvestment.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Creating a Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 that disseminates expeditiously awarded projects will create positive social and economic enhancements, contributing to the overall sustainability of the region by providing support for the most vulnerable members of our community. This action can help create a healthier, stronger, and more resilient San Diego.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with today's recommendations to establish the fund. There may be future impacts associated with operating this fund including the issuance of grant agreements.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Fletcher, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Lawson-Remer

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

