

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MARCH 04, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

**SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE BOARD CONFERENCE
AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH UPDATES IN AUGUST 2025
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Behavioral healthcare available to County residents with severe mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD) has become an issue of regional significance, and it is imperative that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) takes steps to explore the problem in greater depth, along with generating potential solutions.

The Board and the County of San Diego (County) have taken the lead in addressing the region's behavioral healthcare crisis and spearheaded a profound transformation to move the local behavioral health care delivery system from a model of care driven by crises to one centered on continuous, coordinated care and prevention. These efforts, broadly referred to as the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care (Continuum of Care), are guided by data, focused on equity, and designed to engender collaborative work across silos, within and outside of government.

The Board has made historic investments in behavioral health services, expanding access to treatment, crisis response, and long-term recovery programs to meet growing regional needs. Board Conference will provide an update on the progress made, remaining challenges, and future opportunities to further transform the behavioral health system in San Diego County. County leaders will discuss how investments in crisis stabilization units, mobile crisis response teams, and treatment expansion are helping shift the region away from a fragmented, crisis-driven model toward a more effective and coordinated system of care. This discussion will also highlight how continued expansion of services and integration with housing, healthcare, and public safety systems will be critical in ensuring that individuals can access the care they need before reaching crisis.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER

1. Receive information presented in the San Diego County Behavioral Healthcare Board Conference that includes the Substance Use Disorder Optimal Care Pathways model as a framework for future planning.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return with updates on the Substance Use Disorder Optimal Care Pathways model in August 2025.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

In the United States, health inequities continue to persist based on an individual's race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. Improving the County's Behavioral Health Services' Continuum of Care will help address the needs of many vulnerable populations in the County of San Diego.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Convening the Behavioral Healthcare Board Conference supports the County’s Sustainability Goals by exploring the need to provide just and equitable access to behavioral health services.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There may be future fiscal impacts based on recommendations from today’s action. Any such recommendations would return back for consideration and approval by the Board. Upon return by staff, funding for future costs will need to be identified by the department before determining whether any new investments would be able to proceed. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Impending federal policy changes may have significant impacts on the financial sustainability of local mental health and substance use treatment programs funded through Medicaid, or Medi-Cal in California. Therefore, any significant Medicaid policy changes will impact the County’s ability to financially sustain behavioral health Medi-Cal programs. Additionally, current growth in realignment funding, which is used as a match to federal expenditures, has not kept pace with operating increases for existing programs.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Received information presented in the San Diego County Behavioral Healthcare Board Conference that includes the Substance Use Disorder Optimal Care Pathways model as a framework for future planning.
2. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return with updates on the Substance Use Disorder Optimal Care Pathways model in August 2025.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

ABSENT: Desmond

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