

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 20

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL CAPACITY AND NEED FOR BOARD AND CARE AND SUBACUTE SERVICES TO SUPPORT MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLE ADULTS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS, AUTHORIZE AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND EXISTING CONTRACTS, AND AUTHORIZE SUNSET OF REPORTING ON UPDATES TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKER SHORTAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In California, counties are responsible for administering specialty mental health and substance use services to residents eligible for Medi-Cal. In order to optimize access to care and quality as a health plan, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is required to maintain a local network of mental health and substance use services and providers that meets the needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Recent work by BHS has sought to rebalance the entire care system using a more upstream approach that emphasizes prevention and connects people to care within least restrictive settings.

On September 27, 2022 (23), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) received an update on the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care that outlined strategies to rebalance the system and address the historical lack of equity within long-term care through enhancements to community-based care and shifts within subacute services. These strategies were informed by the Behavioral Health Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model, a data-informed algorithm that quantifies utilization across three key service areas: community crisis diversion, subacute care, and community-based care.

Further building on the OCP model, on September 12, 2023 (23), the Board directed staff to assess the capacity of board and care and subacute beds that serve Medi-Cal eligible adults with behavioral health conditions in San Diego County. The Board also directed staff to report back with estimates on the capacity needed to adequately support individuals within the region and strategies to enhance capacity. Today's action provides an update on this direction and requests the Board to authorize amendments to extend five existing board and care contracts, known as augmented services programs. Additionally, today's action requests the Board direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to sunset previously directed time-certain reporting on addressing the behavioral health worker shortage in San Diego County. BHS has completed all actions set forth by the Board and has provided three updates on progress to date, and any additional workforce related items will be included as-needed in future updates to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive an update on the regional capacity of board and care and subacute beds for Medi-Cal eligible adults with serious behavioral health conditions and strategies to enhance board and care and subacute capacity in San Diego County.

2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, to amend five licensed board and care contracts, also referred to as augmented services programs, inclusive of adult residential facilities (ARFs) and residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs) listed below to extend the contract term up to June 30, 2025, and up to an additional six months, if needed; subject to the availability of funds; and amend the contracts as required in order to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.
 - a. Casa de Oro Residential Care ARF (Contract #560378)
 - b. Carroll's Community Care ARF Contract #560381)
 - c. Tharon San Diego, LLC RCFE (Contract #569769)
 - d. Fancor Guest Home ARF (Contract #560379)
 - e. Orlando Residential Care ARF (Contract #560380)
3. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to sunset time-certain reporting for addressing the behavioral health worker shortage in San Diego County as directed actions have been completed.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The update on these recommendations highlights the equity considerations of enhancing board and care, as well as subacute bed capacity, for Medi-Cal eligible adults with serious behavioral health conditions in San Diego County. The initiatives to update regional capacity, amend contracts with care facilities, and address the behavioral health worker shortage directly target the needs of our most vulnerable populations. By focusing on equitable access and resource allocation, these actions aim to dismantle barriers in healthcare access, ensuring that every individual, irrespective of socioeconomic status, receives the necessary care and support.

Expanding services and extending contracts with adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly are pivotal steps toward creating a more inclusive healthcare system. Coupled with strategic efforts to overcome the workforce shortage in the behavioral health sector, these recommendations promise to significantly improve service availability and quality for underserved communities. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors consideration of these equity-focused proposals is crucial for fostering a healthcare environment where equity is not just an aspiration but a realized outcome for all San Diego County residents.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions align with the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2, which seeks to ensure equitable access to County services. Enhancing board and care facilities and increasing subacute bed capacity across the county prioritize equitable access to essential services for Medi-Cal eligible adults.

This item also supports Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in San Diego County. By increasing capacity within community-crisis diversion, community-based care, and establishing additional subacute care, this body of work moves our long-term care system to a more ideal state to better serve the entire region.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts for recommendations #1 or #3. For recommendation #2, funds are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, today’s recommendation will result in approximate costs and revenue of \$3.4 million in FY 2024-25. The funding source is Mental Health Services Act. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, 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