



Health & Human Services Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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District One

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District Two

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District Four

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AGENDA DATE: August 27, 2024

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Natalie Bolin, DSW, LCSW PHONE: 559-624-8000

SUBJECT: Receive a presentation from the Behavioral Health Branch

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive a presentation regarding the California Department of Health Care Services' Behavioral Health Services Act, Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court, and Senate Bill 43.

SUMMARY:

Proposition 63, also known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), was passed by California voters in November 2004 and went into effect in January 2005. MHSA is funded by a one percent surcharge on personal income over one million per year to provide increased funding for mental health services and is comprised of five (5) funding components: community services and supports, prevention and early intervention, workforce education and training, capital facilities and technology needs and innovation projects.

Senate Bill 326 Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and Assembly Bill 531 Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act were chaptered on October 12, 2023 (Chapter 789 and 790, Statutes of 2023), and created the language used in Proposition 1 (Prop 1), which modernized the behavioral health delivery system, amends the MHSA and created a \$6.4 billion in general bonds to build new supportive housing and community-based treatment settings and housing for veterans with behavioral health needs. California voters passed Prop 1 at the March 5, 2024, mid-term elections.

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is making changes due to Prop 1 through the Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) project. DHCS will support

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counties by providing resources and guidance for the implementation of this project. BHT complements and builds on other behavioral health initiatives such as the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, California Advancing and Innovation Medi-Cal Initiative and Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court (CARE Court).

This presentation will offer information about the BHT project, including timelines, Infrastructure Bonds, CARE Court, and service impacts due to Senate Bill (SB) 43. BHSA reform and Infrastructure Bonds are aimed at helping individuals in Tulare County experiencing acute mental illness with co-occurring substance use disorders that often struggle with homelessness. CARE Court is an additional service type that will be implemented in Tulare County in December 2024. CARE Court aims to prevent avoidable psychiatric hospitalizations, incarcerations, and mental health conservatorships by offering earlier intervention and support through a civil court process. Additionally, the presentation will offer an update on the implementation of SB 43 in Tulare County by January 2026, in line with Resolution No. 2023-1106, as approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2023. SB 43 expanded the definition for those eligible for conservatorship to include individuals that are unable to provide for their personal safety or necessary medical care, in addition to food, clothing, or shelter, due to either severe substance use disorder or serious mental health illnesses. Implementing SB 43 will consider less restrictive outpatient treatment alternatives in the community, such as assisted outpatient treatment and CARE Court, when conducting conservatorship investigations.

The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency's (HHSA) Behavioral Health Branch (BHB) is continuously developing strategies to optimize all eligible funding streams and policy reformations in response to changes in the behavioral health landscape due to legislation, policy updates, and the needs of the community. BHB serves the most vulnerable community members suffering from serious mental illness. This includes building specialized facilities, services, and residential sites to ensure that all individuals have access to appropriate levels of care and housing options throughout Tulare County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Prop 1 is expected to have a fiscal impact. However, the exact amount is currently unknown as the policies for implementing SB 326 are still being developed by the DHCS. There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item; this Item is for informational purposes regarding the changes and integration planning efforts around Prop 1, CARE Court, and SB 43.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life initiative that encourages the innovative provision of quality supportive services for at-risk adults, youth, and children in state and federally-mandated programs. Through Prop 1, CARE Court, and SB 43 HHSA seeks to increase the ability to fulfill that obligation by improving access to behavioral health services.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

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/s/Natalie Bolin

Natalie Bolin, DSW, LCSW

Director of Mental Health

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: PowerPoint