

Mental Health Care for Eligible Indigents A Pilot Proposal

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Community Services Agency
Health Services Agency

May 13, 2008

Background

- Public Hearing on March 18, 2008
- Board approved HSA recommendation to eliminate the provision of care including drugs for Serious Mentally Ill
- Board directed BHRS and HSA to develop options and return to the Board with a proposal

HSA's Challenges prompting the March proposal

- No Mandate: Mental Health not part of the Indigent Care mandate (MIA program)
 - BHRS has no mandate or funding stream
- Expense: HSA incurred \$280,384 for psychotropic drugs in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 for 157 patients
- Scope of Practice: Family Medicine Physicians are not Psychiatrists, lack that specialty training and expertise

Workgroup: BHRS, CEO, CSA, HSA

1. Review of patients to more clearly define scope of illness
2. Consider essential components to a pilot program
3. Consider Challenges and Opportunities
4. Explore means of Expense Recovery
5. Develop a Proposed Pilot Program & Projections

More Clearly Define Scope of Illness

Not all 157 Seriously Mentally Ill

Probable Illness	Percentage
Serious Mental Illness	19%
Co-Occurring Disorders	36%
Mostly Alcohol and or Drug problem	25%
Moderate/Mild Mental Illness	20%

Essential Components to a Program

- Outreach/Advocacy to secure Medi-Cal coverage for those who qualify
- Gatekeeper to determine appropriate psychiatric referrals
- Integrated system involving BHRS, HSA and CSA to effectively utilize resources and expertise

Two-Year Pilot Program

Gatekeeper – Two mechanisms

- HSA Screening using BHRS provided tool

- BHRS Assessment in consultation with HSA or separate face to face

Psychiatric Consultation and Limited Treatment– BHRS contracted & possibly augmented with Telepsychiatry

Two-Year Pilot Program continued...

Medications Dispensed by HSA Pharmacy using free drugs and 340 B discounts

Advocacy (Medi-Cal Applications) including Psychiatrist disability evaluations performed by BHRS, with support from HSA & CSA

Explore possibility of trained volunteer peer support within HSA clinics

Pilot Program continued...

Federal/State Matching Funds through CSA for advocacy and assessment – Time Studies prepared by BHRS and HSA, submitted to CSA for partial expense recovery

Medi-Cal Reimbursement (retroactive) for treatment for those patients who qualify for Medi-Cal through the Pilot's advocacy efforts

Treatment: Physician Services and Prescriptions
Physical (HSA) and Mental Health Care (BHRS)

Timing: 6 – 18 months for application approval

Financial Projections

Expenses and Revenues	Year 1		Year 2	
		w/ Tele-Psychiatry & Treatment		w/ Tele-Psychiatry & Treatment
Annual Expenses	296,630	361,630	310,637	345,637
Annual Revenues	91,868	91,868	170,376	179,126
Forecasted County Cost	\$204,763	\$269,763	\$140,261	\$166,511

Financial Projections continued....

- Proposed 50/50 cost-sharing between BHRS and HSA
- Two -Year Term to measure effectiveness due to extended Medi-Cal eligibility determination timeframe
- Psychiatric capacity challenge will drive the telepsychiatry option and expense
 - Grant dollars may be obtainable for start-up
- County Cost in the absence of this program – likely but unable to measure

Opportunities and Challenges

- Fills a community need, with appropriate services
- Leverages resources across three county departments
- Projected to be less costly than present County cost, while providing a more effective service

Opportunities and Challenges

- Securing and maintaining psychiatric access expected to be problematic
- County may save less than the no-pilot option
- Demand for MIA enrollment could increase as a means of accessing Psychiatric care (not in projections)
- One of many Statewide issues: diminishing resources with increasing community need

Recommendations

1. Approve the Two-Year Pilot Program for Eligible Indigents
2. Authorize operational activities by BHRS, CSA & HSA to implement the Pilot
3. Authorize the incremental implementation by HSA of the March 18, 2008 decision, coordinated with the Pilot's implementation