

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

April 29, 2025

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

**Subject: Approval of, and Authorization to Submit, a Mental Health Services Act Collaborative Care for Youth Project Plan to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, for Funding in the Maximum Amount of \$2,874,361.**

**Recommendation:**

Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to submit a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Collaborative Care for Youth (CCY) Project Plan to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC)<sup>1</sup>, for funding in the maximum amount of \$2,874,361. (Exhibit 1)

**Fiscal Impact:****MHSA Budget Unit #3260-3269 (MHS Innovation)**

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
Revenues	\$455,842	\$1,178,331	\$1,240,188
Costs	\$455,842	\$1,178,331	\$1,240,188
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0

Funding Source(s): Proposition 63 MHSA

Match Requirement: None

**Discussion:****Background**

The proposed CCY project was developed through the VCBH MHSA Innovation project process. The process solicits community members' feedback and submittal of innovation ideas through a public portal. A community planning process takes place with community information sessions, a community planning workgroup, and prioritization process. VCBH is looking to expand its mental health services to high risk and underserved populations throughout Ventura County by treating both the mental and physical needs of children, adolescents, and young adults to improve patient outcomes and satisfaction. An MHSA Innovation Project is defined as a project that "the county designs and implements for a defined time period and evaluates to develop new best practices in mental health services

<sup>1</sup> The name of the State oversight commission for expenditure of MHSA funds was changed on January 2, 2025, to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC), and is also referred to as the Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH).

and supports." An Innovation project should be designed to provide new knowledge to inform current and future mental health practices and approaches. A detailed overview of the proposed MHSA CCY project plan and approval process for this project are provided below.

### **CCY Project Overview**

The proposed MHSA CCY project plan is attached as Exhibit 1. The proposal outlines how VCBH will pilot a new consolidated Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) and Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) program, that will offer a structured, evidence-based approach that focuses on mental health care for youth. VCBH will adopt this approach within the County with a focus on youth aged 0-26 and their families. The new program will leverage existing Primary Care Providers (PCP), Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and residents in the same health care system to provide ongoing and consistent care, with known providers, in an integrated setting. This approach: (1) provides consultation and support to the PCP for mild to moderate prescription treatment in partnership with a behavioral health interventionist and (2) allows the psychiatrists more availability to treat complex and severe cases in the health care system.

All MHSA Innovation projects must be approved by the BHSOAC before counties are authorized to move forward with executing programming and contracts. Accordingly, VCBH is requesting your Board's approval of the proposed VCBH MHSA CCY project plan and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to submit the plan to BHSOAC for funding in the maximum amount of \$2,874,361. VCBH will procure the services necessary to implement its MHSA project plan, as approved by BHSOAC, in accordance with all applicable County contracting and procurement policies and requirements.

### **Strategic Plan Priority:**

The item presented in this Board letter ties to Goal #1 of the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing equitable and timely access to quality mental health services.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact VCBH Behavioral Health Director Loretta L. Denering DrPH, MS at (805) 981-2214 or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.



LORETTA L. DENERING, DrPH, MS  
Behavioral Health Director

Board of Supervisors  
Ventura County CCY Program Project Plan Submission to BHSOAC  
April 29, 2025  
Page 3 of 3



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THERESA CHO, MD, MHA  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:  
Exhibit 1 – CCY Program Project Plan