



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

October 29, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Scott Powers
County Chief Financial Officer

Danielle Keys
County Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the County of Ventura to Participate in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 1: 2024 Launch Ready Grant Program Administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for Funding to Establish the Lewis Road Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), and the East County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), in an Amount Not to Exceed \$235,000,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing and directing the County of Ventura to participate in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 1: 2024 Launch Ready grant program administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for funding to establish the Lewis Road Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), and the East County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), in an amount not to exceed \$235,000,000. (Exhibit 1)

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

This recommendation has no fiscal impact and is seeking authorization to apply for BHCIP Round 1 grant funding. If VCBH is awarded the BHCIP grant funding, VCBH will return to your Board to seek approval to accept the award and to execute the necessary contractual documents.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:

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

DISCUSSION:

The Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) was established by 2021 State legislation (AB133) to provide capital funding for a variety of behavioral health facilities. In prior funding rounds, the County was awarded \$964,000 for the Transitional Age Youth Rapid Response Team, \$150,000 for planning the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit, and \$6,431,032 for the Youth and Family Community Resource Center.

In 2024, the BHCIP program was continued through Proposition 1 (SB326 and AB 531), which authorized \$6.38 billion in general obligation bonds to finance the conversion, rehabilitation, and construction of supportive housing and behavioral health housing and treatment settings.

In partnership with Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), the State's third-party grant administrator, DHCS will release these funds through two grant rounds targeting various gaps in the State's behavioral health facility infrastructure:

- Round 1 (Due December 13, 2024): \$3.3 billion available, of which
 - \$1.5 billion is open only to counties, cities, and tribal entities with no regional caps.
 - \$1.8 billion is a competitive grant open to counties, cities, and tribal entities, as well as nonprofit and for-profit organizations, with regional caps (Ventura County competes for a \$264 million Southern California allocation, not including Los Angeles County).

- Round 2 (Due 2025 est.)
 - An additional \$1.1 billion for behavioral health projects is to be made available.

In addition, Proposition 1 allocated \$2 billion to build permanent supportive housing (PSH) for veterans and others that are homeless or at risk of homelessness and that have mental health or substance use challenges. Applications for Homekey+ are anticipated to be due starting in January 2025. This board letter focuses on BHCIP Round 1, our Office will report on strategies for Homekey+ under separate cover.

Our office, in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Department, seeks Board authorization to apply for three projects under BHCIP *Round 1: 2024 Launch Ready*:

Lewis Road Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)

The Lewis Road Community is a County-owned 54-acre campus providing a variety of housing and wellness services. These services include affordable multifamily housing, behavioral health treatment, care for children at Casa Pacifica, adult residential facilities, as well as Growing Works, a commercial nursery treatment program.

Staff have identified the former RAIN homeless shelter on the Lewis Road campus as a site for a 38-bed Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC). The existing building will be renovated, along with the addition of water and road infrastructure improvements, a transit hub, and a community center, to build out the Lewis Road Vision Plan approved by your Board in May 2023. Additional MHRC beds for the campus are under consideration as part of the grant application.

A mental health rehabilitation center (MHRC) is a secure, residential program which provides intensive psychiatric treatment and rehabilitative services intended to facilitate the recoveries of adults (18 years or older) diagnosed with serious mental illnesses and significant functional mental disorders. The anticipated clients are adults stepping down from an in-patient hospital environment on conservatorship under the authority of the Public Guardian's Office who meet criteria for specialty mental health services, specifically, those diagnosed with serious mental illnesses and experiencing significant functional impairment. Most common diagnoses are expected to include thought and mood disorders (i.e., schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, etc.). Treatment and services will include medication service/support, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, case management, and socialization/life skills. MHRCs can be locked or un-locked with average lengths of stay in the range of 18 to 24 months. The MHRC proposed at the RAIN building would be a locked facility.

At present, Ventura County has more than 85 persons in out-of-County MHRC placements. Some residents have been placed in out-of-County treatment centers that are over 200 miles away from home. This MHRC complex is a high priority to bring our residents back into our County and closer to home during their treatment. The maximum total budget for the campus is estimated at \$180 Million.

East County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

Crisis Stabilization Units are community-based treatment facilities that provide immediate care to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and operate 24/7. CSUs assess the needs of the client and provides and facilitates the appropriate mental health treatment and services when possible. CSUs tend to be smaller facilities often with attention to providing a "home-like" setting that aims to help agitated clients to relax. With stays of less than 24 hours, clients are accommodated in reclining chairs as opposed to beds.

The County is in the process of renovating County-owned 3150 E. Los Angeles Avenue in Simi Valley into a CSU. However, the existing building is over 60 years old. With BHCIP funding, the building would be replaced with a new facility for outpatient mental health services including a CSU. The location of this intended CSU is next door to the proposed East County PHF facility. The synergistic relationship between the CSU and PHF is akin to that of an emergency room and medical hospital. While upwards of two-thirds of patients can be expected to have their emergent mental health needs

addressed at the level of the CSU, one-third will need access to higher acuity care at the next-door PHF. Total estimated budget for the new building is \$20 Million.

East County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)

PHFs provide 24-hour inpatient care for adults (18 years and older) with acute psychiatric needs that cannot be addressed at a lower level of care. The acuity of the clients housed at PHFs are higher than those of clients at MHRCs, and they have a shorter average length of stay, at less than three weeks. Staff has identified a vacant parcel improved with a parking lot adjacent to a County-owned VCBH facility located at 3150 East Los Angeles Avenue in Simi Valley as the future location of a PHF. If patients cannot have their emergent mental health needs addressed at the level of the CSU, one of the treatment options could be inpatient treatment which the PHF would provide with its multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, mental health therapists, and nurses. The estimated budget for the PHF is \$35 Million.

Funding Operating Costs

Should the County be awarded funding, as part of the grant agreement, the County must agree to provide operations at these facilities for at least 30 years. The State is not providing any operational funding as part of this grant availability. The CEO's Office, alongside VCBH, continue to analyze the feasibility of operating both the Lewis Road and Simi Valley facilities described herein for 30 years (required under the grant agreement). Should that analysis determine that aspects of these projects are not financially viable, Staff would modify the application as such. For example, the Simi Valley CSU and PHF project could be modified to remove the replacement building for the CSU from the application. Staff continues to strategize the best mix of State Realignment, Medi-Cal, and other funding necessary to operate these facilities.

Proposition 1 provides the County with perhaps a once in a generation opportunity to build behavioral health beds to address gaps in the County's care continuum. Adoption of the attached Resolution is required to apply for BHCIP *Round 1: 2024 Launch Ready* funds and provides authority for signing grant agreements should the County be awarded funding. During the pre-application conference, the State instructed County staff to think beyond the needs of today and apply for large campus projects. There is no guarantee that the projects will be awarded as shown in the application. The State can ask for an adjustment to the project scaling. The State can also decide not to award certain components of each project. In order to maintain flexibility, Staff is requesting Board authority to apply for the largest scope possible.

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

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Program Management Analyst Clay McCarter at (805) 654-2535 or VCBH Director
Loretta Denering at (805) 981-2214.

Respectfully,



Loretta L. Denering, DrPH, MS
Behavioral Health Director



Sevet Johnson, Psy.D
County Executive Officer

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Resolution