

April 9, 2019

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

**SUBJECT: Authorization for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director or Designee to Submit the Mental Health Services Act Innovation Project, Conocimiento: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences Through Core Competencies, to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for Approval of Funding, in the Amount of \$1,047,100 Over a Four-Year Period of FY 2019-2023.**

**William T. Foley**  
Health Care Agency Director

**John Fankhauser, MD**  
HCA Chief Medical Officer

**Johnson K. Gill**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ambulatory Care Delivery

**Sevet Johnson, PsyD**  
Behavioral Health Director

**Katie McKinney**  
Human Resources Director

**Kim S. Milstien**  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Hospitals

**Karla Valle**  
HCA Chief Financial Officer

**Rigoberto Vargas**  
Public Health Director

**Jennifer Wortham, Dr.PH**  
Chief Deputy Director  
Strategy and Growth

**Christopher Young, MD**  
Chief Medical Examiner

## RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Director or designee to sign and submit the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Project, Conocimiento: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through Core Competencies (Exhibit 1), to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for approval of funding, in the amount of \$1,047,100 over a four-year period of FY 2019-2023.

## FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

### MHSA Budget Unit # 3260-3269 (Innovations)

Mandatory: No [X] Yes [ ] Cite Authority:

Source of Funding: Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$0	\$264,092
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$0	\$264,092
Indirect - Dept.	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$264,092
Net County Costs	\$0	\$0

<b>FY 2018-19 Current Year Budget for MHSA Innovations BU #3269</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$1,430,038	\$1,432,065	\$1,056,402	\$375,663
Revenue	\$1,900,090	\$1,900,090	\$2,178,907	\$278,817
Net Cost	(\$470,052)	(\$468,025)	(\$1,122,505)	\$654,480

Note: Revenue and appropriations for this item will be included in the FY19-20 preliminary budget for Innovations Budget Unit 3260-3269.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

Proposition 63, the MHSA, was passed by California voters in November 2004. The MHSA imposes a 1 percent income tax on personal income over \$1,000,000 to provide funding to counties for the development of comprehensive community-based mental health services and supports that will reduce the adverse impact from untreated serious mental illness in adults and severe emotional disturbance in children and youth. Part of the MHSA includes an "Innovations" category of funding. Innovations projects are novel, creative and/or ingenious mental health practices/approaches that contribute to learning, and that are developed within communities through a process that is inclusive and representative, especially of unserved, underserved and inappropriately served individuals.

### **MHSA Innovations Project: Addressing ACEs Through Core Competencies Proposal**

Under the MHSA, counties are expected to develop innovative projects and use the information learned from such projects to improve the behavioral health care system. VCBH has developed a four-year MHSA Innovations Project titled Conocimiento: Addressing ACEs through Core Competencies.

Years of research show a correlation of experiences in childhood, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), as having predictive health and functioning risks for adulthood. An ACE is defined as childhood physical, verbal, or sexual abuse, witnessing parental domestic violence, parental divorce, and living with someone who was experiencing mental illness, abused drugs or alcohol or who had been incarcerated. Prolonged experience of poverty has also been considered an ACE. Protective experiences and well-developed coping skills are effective equalizers to a significant ACE and the ongoing stress of living in poverty. One way to build these skills is through regular family dinners, which incorporate many of the resiliency strategies naturally; however, given the irregular schedules of the working poor, regular family dinners are not always feasible.

Core competencies can be developed at any age. The proposed MHSA Innovations Conocimiento Project is designed to promote the development of the following four competencies, as developed through research by The Center for the Developing Child at Harvard: (1) facilitating supportive adult relationships, (2) building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control, (3) providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities, and (4) mobilizing sources of faith, hope and cultural traditions. Focus on each of these areas will take place over a four-year period to build resilient youth between the ages of 13 to 19 years.

The budget for the proposed MHSA Innovations Conocimiento Project is outlined below:

<b>FY 2019-20 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2020-21 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2021-22 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>
\$264,092	\$253,490	\$260,928	\$268,590	\$1,047,100

The MHSA Conocimiento Project was posted for a 30-day public comment and review from Monday, February 26, 2019 through Monday, March 27, 2019. A public hearing was held on March 18, 2019, after which the project was approved by the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

VCBH recommends approval of and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign and submit the MHSA Innovation Conocimiento Project to the MHSOAC for approval.

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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 Sevet Johnson at (805) 981-1881.



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director



KARLA VALLE  
Chief Financial Officer



WILLIAM T. FOLEY  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – MHSA INNOVATION PROJECT PROPOSAL CONOCIMIENTO:  
ADDRESSING ACEs THROUGH CORE COMPETENCIES.