

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: Director, County Department of Mental/Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: California Mental Health Services Authority

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt a resolution authorizing County's participation in the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) in order to jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs as determined on a regional, statewide, or other basis.
- 2) Approve the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (as amended in 2010) that governs operations of the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).
- 3) Authorize the Director of the Department of Mental/Behavioral Health to sign the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (amended in 2010) on behalf of the County.
- 4) Authorize the Director of the Department of Mental/Behavioral Health to act as the representative of the County on the Board of Directors of the California Mental Health Services Authority, and authorize the Director to appoint an alternate to represent the County on the CalMHSA Board.
- 5) Authorize the Director of Mental/Behavioral Health to expend the application fee to participate in California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Approval of this item will allow the County's Department of Mental/Behavioral Health to participate in the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) in order to jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs as determined by CalMHSA Board on a regional, statewide, or other basis.

In 2004, voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which among other things provided for the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) to implement various mental health services through contracts with county mental health programs or counties acting jointly.

In 2007, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved five statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Projects. In 2008, MHSOAC determined that three of these projects would be most effectively implemented by a single administrative entity, and approved

funding for these projects in the amount of \$40,000,000 per year for four years. This funding is separate from and does not impact the ongoing base funding for PEI programs developed by the individual counties. The three programs identified by MHSOAC for single statewide administration were Suicide Prevention, Student Mental Health Initiative, and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction.

DMH was the single administrative entity initially contemplated by the MHSOAC, and some Counties assigned their statewide PEI Project funds to DMH, but when other Counties declined to assign their funds to DMH, the California Mental Health Directors Association determined that the most efficient alternative would be a single statewide entity such as a Joint Powers Authority. MHSOAC and DMH supported formation of a Joint Powers Authority to administer the projects. DMH Information Notices 10-05 and 10-06 provide Counties three options for implementation of statewide PEI Programs: a Joint Powers Authority, a multi-County collaborative, or assignment to DMH.

The California Government Code (the "Joint Exercise of Powers Act", Section 6500 et seq.) permits two or more public agencies by agreement to jointly exercise powers common to the contracting parties. Six initial member Counties formed the California Mental Health Service Authority (CalMHSA) in 2009. In April 2010, CalMHSA entered into a contract with DMH to administer the three statewide PEI Projects on behalf of its member Counties. In June 2010, CalMHSA's Board approved amendments to its Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to clarify the rights and obligations of member Counties. The Agreement as amended in 2010 is attached as Attachment 1. Under the Agreement, each member County has a representative on CalMHSA's Board of Directors who has the authority to attend, participate in and vote on actions of the Board of Directors. As of November 2010, CalMHSA had 29 member Counties containing more than 85% of the state's population and accounting for more than \$130,000,000 of the \$160,000,000 allocated to Counties to administer the three statewide PEI Projects over the four-year period.

The County Department of Mental/Behavioral Health requests approval to join CalMHSA in order to act jointly with other counties to administer the three statewide PEI Projects. In addition to providing an alternative to assignment of the funds for these projects to DMH, CalMHSA facilitates efficient use of resources by multiple Counties by providing group purchasing power, joint development of RFPs and contracts for services, reduced overhead through sharing of the expenses of administration and reporting, and sharing research and strategies.

CalMHSA also provides its member Counties with a unified voice in dealing with DMH, MHSOAC, and the legislature. CalMHSA may in the future facilitate joint county administration of other mental health services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is an application fee of up to \$1,000 (depending on County population) to join CalMHSA. Otherwise, participation in the Authority will not impose any additional County costs as funding for the statewide PEI projects has been reserved for counties acting jointly or collaboratively, and is separate

from and does not impact the ongoing base funding of the Counties for the PEI programs developed and operated by individual Counties.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

No direct effect on current County services will occur, since funds for the statewide PEI projects are separate from and in addition to funds currently received under the MHSA. However, Counties will benefit directly and indirectly from these statewide projects through training and technical assistance provided to Counties and their PEI partners' support for the implementation of local PEI projects, media and social marketing materials in multiple languages, model program sites, enhanced state and local partnerships, coordinated state and local efforts, research and evaluation, and statewide quality improvement activities. Establishing an alternative to state administration of state-level MHSA programs through participation in the CalMHSA should result in more cost-effective rates for services, reduced demands on County administrative services, and increased efficiency in implementing services.

REVIEW

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel on _____ and the County Administrative Office on _____.

RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, County wishes to participate in the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide project by becoming a member of the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) in order to jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs on a statewide, regional, or local basis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Supervisors does hereby:

- 1) Authorize County's participation in the California Mental Health Services Authority.
- 2) Approve the CalMHSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement as amended in 2010.
- 3) Authorize the Director of the Department of Mental/Behavioral Health to sign the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (as amended in 2010) on behalf of County.
- 4) Authorize the Director of the Department of Mental/Behavioral Health to act as the representative of the County on the Board of Directors of the California Mental Health Services Authority, and authorize the Director to appoint an alternate represent the County on the CalMHSA Board.
- 5) Authorize the Director of Mental/Behavioral Health to expend the application fee to participate in CalMHSA.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted on the ____ day of _____, 20__ by
the Board of Supervisors of the County of _____.