



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Kelly Wallace, Acting Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
 Subject: Authorizing Acceptance of Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission Mental Health Triage Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHOAC) and any amendments in the amount of \$614,834 and authorize the use of Medi-Cal matching funds of \$180,184 to create and staff a mental health crisis triage phone line for the period 12/1/2018 through 11/30/2021.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley will receive funds in the amount of \$614,834 in total for the period 12/01/2018 through 11/30/2021 from the MHOAC. In this same period of time, it is estimated that staff in this program will bill \$180,184 for Medi-Cal activities. The funds will be deposited and expensed for this contract (CMS No. MIK17) from the One-Time Grant: Non Capital Expenditures Fund (Fund #336).

The MHOAC grant will be officially appropriated as part of the Second Amendment to the FY 2019 Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Division currently operates a Community Assessment and Triage (CAT) team at 1521 University Avenue at the Adult Mental Health Clinic. Community members can contact the CAT team for screening, assessment, and referral to the appropriate level of mental health treatment by either walking into the clinic at 1521 University Avenue between 8 am and 1:30 pm or calling 981-5244 between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm.

The Mental Health Division also operates a Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) between the hours of 11:30 am and 10 pm 365 days a year (staffing dependent). The MCT responds in the field to mental health crisis when contacted by the Berkeley Police Department of a mental health crisis. Community members can leave a voice mail for the team at 981-5254.

Residents of Berkeley who are having a mental health crisis can currently call Crisis Support Services of Alameda County 24 hours a day at 1-800-309-2131 to talk with a trained crisis counselor. Residents of Berkeley can also call the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) Non-Emergency number 24 hours a day at 981-5900 to request a MCT evaluation or call 911 if they or a loved one are in a life threatening mental health crisis.

Accepting this grant funding from the MHOAC would support the mental health division to expand the current CAT phone line so that it can serve a crisis phone line for community members in Berkeley and Albany between 11:30 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. When this CAT phone line is expanded, community members in a mental health crisis could call this line and speak directly with a trained crisis clinician within the Mental Health Division, who can provide support to try to resolve the crisis without BPD or MCT intervention. If needed, the call can be routed to BPD for an emergency response.

BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Division conducted two needs assessment processes from 2016 through 2017 that identified gaps in the City's current mental health system, including the crisis system. Both needs assessments -- the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Innovations Funds: City of Berkeley Planning Report 2016 and the MHSA Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan Fiscal Years 2017-2020 -- included significant public input about the desire to have a way to reach a crisis clinician within the Mental Health Division in a crisis situation directly, without first calling BPD. In response to this input, the Mental Health Division has looked for opportunities to find funding to support this goal.

The Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013, Senate Bill 82, provides grant funds to improve access to and capacity for mental health crisis services. This grant program provides funds to increase capacity for client assistance and services in crisis intervention, stabilization, treatment, rehabilitative mental health services and mobile crisis support teams. Services that are funded are designed to increase access to effective outpatient and crisis services, provide an opportunity to reduce costs associated with expensive inpatient and emergency room care, reduce incarceration, and better meet the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the least restrictive manner possible.

The MHOAC released a Request for Applications (RFA) for Mental Health Triage Personnel in December, 2017. This RFA was for serves for both Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and Adults. The Mental Health Division submitted an application for these funds in March of 2018. This original grant application was for \$1,520,633.55 of grant funding in total for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 and would have established a crisis phone line from 11:30 am to 10 pm, Monday through Friday. This original grant

funding would also have added in staffing to follow up on client needs identified through this crisis line.

The MHOAC originally notified the City of Berkeley in March of 2018 that the proposal had been accepted and would be partially funded for a total amount of \$871,139 for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Subsequently, the MHOAC contacted all applicants that had been funded and informed them that the funding for this grant had been reduced by the California Legislature and that funding levels for all grantees would be reduced. In September of 2018, the MHOAC informed the Mental Health Division that Triage Grant award would be reduced to \$614,834 in total three years, beginning 12/1/2018, and asked for a revised budget and program description. The submitted revised program budget and project description were then approved by the MHOAC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the action recommended in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These funds will support the Health, Housing and Community Services Department in providing enhanced services for individuals with serious mental illness who are in crisis.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could not accept these funds and not increase staffing to create a mental health crisis phone line.

CONTACT PERSON

Steven Grolnic-McClurg, Manager of Mental Health Services, 981-5290

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH OVERSITE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MENTAL HEALTH TRIAGE GRANT

WHEREAS, as a local mental health jurisdiction, the City of Berkeley operates a Mobile Crisis Team; and

WHEREAS, the public has given input requesting that the individuals experiencing a mental health crisis be able to reach a mental health clinician within the mental health division directly when in crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Services Accountability Commission has approved a grant application for the City of Berkeley \$614,834 in total for the period 12/1/2018 through 11/30/2021 to operate a crisis triage line.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council approves the following: The City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to accept \$614,834 in total grant funds for the period 12/1/2018 through 11/30/2021, execute any necessary agreements in line with the grant award, and implement the crisis triage line project and appropriation of funds for related agreements. The funds deposited and expensed for this contract (CMS No. MIK17) from the One-Time Grant: Non Capital Expenditures Fund (Fund #336). A signature copy of said documents, agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.