



Department of Health and Human Services
Mental Health Administration

February 1, 2008

Mike Borunda
Assistant Deputy Director, Community Program Support
Community Services Division
California Department of Mental Health
1600 9th Street, Room 130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Borunda:

In accordance with State regulations, the City of Berkeley would like to request an amendment to the Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Agreement in order to include the additional one time funding augmentation amount of \$925,300, as referenced in DMH letter #07-21. Upon approval from the state we anticipate our start date as March 2008.

-Provide a list of the new and/or expanded programs/services, identified by the service category under which the program/service will be funded

The proposed funding will be used to expand the Berkeley Mental Health TAY, Adults and Older Adults Full Service Partnership (FSP).

-Provide a description of each program/service, including the population to be served, number of clients served, services to be provided and methods of service delivery

The expansion of the FSP will provide intensive services to severely mentally ill individuals who are identified to be in critical need. This will include individuals who are homeless or marginally housed, individuals who have not been successful in maintaining housing, and individuals with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Funds will be used to increase the number of FSP enrollee slots from 18 to 50. As with the current FSP, the expanded program will provide intensive support services, housing supports and vocational assistance to clients in need.

-Provide the net cost per client resulting from the expanded program.

We anticipate the net cost per client to be approximately \$23,000.

-Provide an explanation of how each program/service relates to the issues identified in the Community Program Planning Process, including how each program/service will reduce or eliminate the disparities identified in the CSS assessment in the County's existing Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan.

The priority issues identified during the Community Services and Supports (CSS) Program Planning Process included: homelessness, incarceration, inability to manage independence, isolation and lack of access to Mental Health services. The initial Full Service Partnership program was developed in accordance with these needs. One of the goals of the FSP program was to address access and service disparities identified during our planning process. These priority populations included: Asian/Pacific Islander and Latino persons of all ages, transition age youth, and older adults. The proposed expansion would maintain that goal and help to avoid creating additional disparities of individuals who would be inappropriately served, under-served or unserved without access to these services.

-Provide an assessment of the County's capacity to implement the proposed programs/services, including the factors listed in Section 3650(a)(1) of the CCR.

As referenced in the City of Berkeley's CSS Plan, Asians and Latinos are the most unserved ethnic populations in Berkeley/Albany, with utilization rates of only 7% and 27% of the estimated prevalence populations served, respectively. Viewing the data by age group, 91% of transition-age youth are unserved and adults ages 60 and over have a utilization rate of only 29%.

It is difficult to exactly project the number of underserved people within the confines of the Berkeley system itself, as Berkeley Mental Health and the County system often share in providing services to an individual. However, it is clear that Berkeley Mental Health vastly under serves transition age youth, and older adults, as well as Asian/Pacific Islanders and Latinos. The CSS Planning assessment also discerned that African Americans are inappropriately served due to a lack of culturally informed services.

The Multicultural Outreach Coordinator hired under the CSS Plan continues to outreach and engage the Latino and Asian communities in order to facilitate access to those in need of services. Additionally, ongoing trainings are being conducted to assist Berkeley Mental Health in becoming more culturally competent and several bi-lingual staff have been hired to reduce some of the disparities that exist in cultural and linguistic capacity.

-A statement explaining how the requirements of the Community Program Planning Process in Section 3300 of the CCR were met.

Proposed amendments to the MHSA Community Services and Supports Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan must reflect the guidelines and regulations developed by the State Department of Mental Health and build on data gathered during the initial Community Services and Supports comprehensive planning process conducted in 2005. The MHSA Steering Committee, which oversaw the planning and development of the original CSS Plan and continues to meet on a monthly basis, was involved in reviewing and providing input into the final recommendations for the use of these one-time funds that were developed by staff. The Steering Committee represents a diverse group of stakeholders including consumers, family members, and representatives from underserved communities. As noted above, the proposed Full Service Partnership program expansion integrates the priorities developed in the initial planning process as well as service, access, and needs data that have changed over the intervening period.

-Provide documentation of the local review process required by Section 3315.

Proposed amendments to the MHSA Community Services and Supports Plan have been made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. A press release has been issued to local newspapers and all review documents are available at the Public Library; on the Berkeley Mental Health website <http://cobweb/mentalhealth> and distributed via mail and/or email to community agencies and individuals who participated in the initial CSS planning process.

The purpose of the public review and comment period is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to offer feedback to the Mental Health Division prior to submission of the final proposal to the State Department of Mental Health. We invite the public to review these documents and to comment on their fidelity to State guidelines and local priorities for Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment to Berkeley's Three Year program and Expenditure Plan and the MHSA Agreement. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Harvey Tureck
Mental Health Director