



JIM DESMOND
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2019 JUN 21 AM 9:53
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: June 25, 2019

23

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM OF CARE: CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT CHAIRS AND PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH FACILITY BEDS FOR NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICT: 5)

OVERVIEW

Across the region, there is a deficit of behavioral health stabilization services to help meet the needs of people experiencing a mental health crisis. Particularly, North San Diego County is in crisis with a lack of inpatient beds and treatment chairs to treat and stabilize people undergoing mental health emergencies. San Diego County residents suffer without a sufficient number and range of facilities that specialize in mental health treatment and stabilization. Additionally, our hospital emergency rooms are not well equipped to treat mental illness and law enforcement spends inordinate resources tending to people with behavioral health issues.

Today’s action, if approved, will provide funding for the construction of a facility that includes 12 Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) chairs and 16 Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) beds on the Tri-City Medical Center (Tri-City) campus in Oceanside. In exchange for the capital to construct the multiservice facility, Tri-City will run the CSU and PHF units and provide the site. This is a significant step to addressing this unmet need.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.
2. Establish appropriations of \$14,000,000 in Finance Other – General Miscellaneous Expense, Other Charges to assist Tri-City Hospital District or related entity in constructing a psychiatric facility, based on available prior year General Fund fund balance. (4 VOTES)
3. Pursuant to California Government Code section 26227, direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to negotiate with Tri-City Hospital District or related entity, and upon successful negotiations, enter into an agreement or agreements to provide up to

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\$14,000,000 in funding to assist it in constructing a psychiatric facility to be located in Oceanside, California, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The facility will be used for community psychiatric care and will:
 - i. Maintain a minimum of 16 psychiatric health facility beds for exclusive use of individuals eligible to receive publicly funded insurance such as Medi-Cal or County Medical Services;
 - ii. Maintain a crisis stabilization unit with a minimum of 12 Crisis Stabilization Unit chairs;
 - iii. Be designed and constructed to allow for easy reconfiguration to address future community psychiatric needs, including use of flex beds;
 - iv. The Chief Administrative Officer may authorize new or different services and type or mix of bed type where the change is necessary to meet the community's public health needs; and
- b. The property will be used for the purposes set forth in this recommendation for a term of fifty years, and should that use cease during that time, the funds provided by the County will be repaid to the County on the terms set forth in the funding agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2021 CAO Recommended Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in the expenditure of up to \$14,000,000 to be funded by General Fund fund balance. There will be no change in staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Across the region, there is a deficit of behavioral health stabilization services to help meet the needs of people experiencing a mental health crisis. Particularly, North San Diego County is in crisis with a lack of inpatient beds and treatment chairs to treat and stabilize people undergoing mental health emergencies. San Diego County residents suffer without a sufficient number and range of facilities that specialize in mental health treatment and stabilization. Additionally, our hospital emergency rooms are not well equipped to treat mental illness and law enforcement spends inordinate resources tending to people with behavioral health issues.

In 2018, Tri-City Medical Center suspended operation of its Behavioral Health Unit (BHU), which provided adult inpatient psychiatric services, and its Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), which provided adult crisis stabilization services.

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As a result, the Palomar Health hospital system presently operates the only remaining facility with an emergency room, CSU, and BHU in North San Diego County. Palomar Health has seen a dramatic increase of psychiatric patients since the closure of Tri-City and these patients are staying longer due to shortage of placements, resulting in patients in the emergency room waiting for behavioral health unit admission.

Adding to the challenge of meeting the urgent and emergent behavioral health needs of North San Diego County, Palomar Health's 22-bed unit in Escondido is set to close in September 2020 resulting in total inpatient psychiatric care capacity serving this region going from 40 inpatient beds and 18 CSU chairs to zero inpatient beds and six CSU chairs.

On April 2, 2019, Supervisor Desmond and Supervisor Gaspar convened a meeting between Tri-City staff and board members, Palomar Health staff and board members and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency staff. At that meeting, each of the agencies agreed to collaborate to seek solutions and resources they could bring to address the behavioral health care crisis in North County. A follow up meeting was held with the North County Supervisors June 11, 2019. As a result, Palomar Health and Tri-City are partners in board actions today and will continue to collaborate in the future.

As described in item 4 *Update on Advancing the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Through Regional Collaboration and Innovation* of today's agenda, Palomar Health has stepped up to provide enhanced hospital-based crisis stabilization services and plans to partner and participate in future efforts to solve the region's behavioral health crisis.

Today's action involving Tri-City, if approved, will provide funding for the construction of a facility that includes 12 CSU chairs and 16 PHF beds on the Tri-City campus in Oceanside. In exchange for the capital to construct the multiservice facility, Tri-City will run the CSU and PHF units and provide the site.

CSU chairs serve people experiencing a mental health crisis for up to 24 hours and provide immediate stabilization, on-going assessment and stabilization which may include treatment with medication and linkages to other services. These services ensure those in mental health crisis can continue to avoid unnecessary behavioral health hospitalization, as well as support the more effective and efficient use of emergency room resources. CSUs allow for a more timely transition for law enforcement personnel, allowing them to more quickly and efficiently return to patrolling communities.

Psychiatric Health Facility "step down" beds provide for up to 72 hours of psychiatric evaluation, treatment and stabilization to reduce rates of hospital admission, increase connections to ongoing care, and increase sustained engagement in care among those experiencing psychiatric crisis.

The action and funding recommended today provide a significant step to addressing this unmet need. I urge your support.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Today's recommended actions do not constitute a project for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, which defines a project, in part, as an action that "has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment." Further, section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines provides that CEQA only applies to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Today's actions would only authorize staff to provide funding and enter into an agreement, and would not authorize any construction. It can therefore be seen with certainty that these actions will have no significant effect on the environment.

Respectfully submitted,



JIM DESMOND
Supervisor, Fifth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Jim Desmond, Fifth District

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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