

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Expand DMH’s Mobile Crisis Response Teams to Provide Referral and Follow Up Services

On November 16, 2021, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion titled “Expand DMH’s Mobile Crisis Response Teams to 24/7,” to grant authority to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to accept \$51.8 million in one-time funds from the State Department of Health Care Services (State) as part of the State’s Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) grant. These funds were used to begin expansion of DMH’s Field Intervention Teams (FIT) to respond to people in mental health crisis when and where they happen. Since receiving the grant, DMH has expanded the number of FIT available across the County from 30 to 55 teams, and has expanded their hours to run 24/7. This has resulted in greater availability and quicker response times for people in crisis to receive unarmed mobile responses from trained mental health professionals.

On March 19, 2024, the State awarded DMH an additional \$2,200,000 in one-time funds as part of its CCMU grant for Additional Direct Services Funding. The funds are to be used to continue work related to the direct service of the CCMU program.

DMH plans to use the additional funds to support the expansion of mobile crisis response services to include teams dedicated to conducting referral and follow-up care for clients receiving crisis services. Dedicated referral and follow up teams will be assigned to each of the County’s

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eight service planning areas, each comprised of one medical case worker and one community health worker to expand mobile crisis response services and related infrastructure in the County.

The supplemental funding fills an important gap and helps DMH provide more effective follow up care for its clients. The new Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Service Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services benefit requires referral and follow-up for all crisis calls. Reimbursement is provided only for the initial follow up call, and only for Medi-Cal members. However, approximately 40% of crisis team clients are not enrolled in Medi-Cal; as such, there is no current funding source for providing those patients with referral and follow up services. In addition, DMH has determined that many of its clients receiving crisis care are disengaged from the mental health system and require multiple calls and often field visits and outreach to connect them to appropriate care. None of these services are reimbursable under Medi-Cal, for any of the individuals receiving initial crisis services.

These funds will help the County reach its goal of enhancing alternative crisis response by ensuring that clients receive the follow up care they need after they are visited by a mobile crisis team, even if they are not covered by Medi-Cal. This follow up care can help them get on the path to more regular mental health care and treatment, avoiding future crises. It will also help the County access more state funds by fulfilling a state requirement for the enhanced benefit.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), or designee, to accept an additional \$2,200,000 in Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) grant funds and any

potential future award of CCMU grant funding allocated by the State of California to ensure DMH can utilize these funds to expeditiously expand mobile crisis services;

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or designee, to negotiate and execute an amendment to DMH's existing contract with the State, or its third-party administrator, to: 1) incorporate additional CCMU grant funds from the State; 2) extend the term of the contract; and 3) reflect non-material and/or ministerial revisions, including, needed operational changes, or other agreement terms and conditions; subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Office.

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