



## **STAFF INNOVATION SUMMARY— SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

### **Name of Innovative Projects:**

- (1) Early Childhood Universal Screening Project. Additional amount requested: \$691,163.**
- (2) Peer-Run Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Inn Project. Additional amount requested: \$669,714.**
- (3) Elders' Storytelling Project. Additional amount requested: \$240,193.**
- (4) Transitional Mental Health Services for Newly Released Inmates. Additional amount requested: \$376,972.**

**Total Requested for Innovative (INN) Project Amendments: \$1,978,042.**

### **Review History**

County contacts Commission to discuss additional funding for on-going INN projects: June, 2015.

County formally requests Commission approval for amendments to four INN projects: December 21, 2015.

County clarifies its funding requests and provides additional background information: February 2016-May 2016.

MHSOAC consideration of INN Project Amendments: July 28, 2016.

### **Summary**

Santa Clara County is requesting approval of \$1,978,042 in additional funding for four INN projects. The Commission initially approved these projects in September, 2010. Although the projects were authorized in 2010, project start dates ranged from 2011 to 2013.

In June, 2015, Santa Clara County contacted the Commission to seek additional funding approval. Funding that was previously authorized was going to be fully spent as early as July 31, 2015 and as late as October 31, 2015, for the various projects. At that time, Commission staff directed the County to include their request for augmented funding with their Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 Annual Update. The Commission subsequently received that Annual Update and a formal request for additional INN funding in December 2015.

At this point Commission staff reviewed the history of these projects and the need for additional funding. In that process, Commission staff identified a number of procedural and communication concerns.

## Staff Innovation Summary—Santa Clara County

As initially communicated to the Commission in June of 2015, Santa Clara County is seeking funding for INN projects that were operated from mid-2015 through early- to mid-2016. As such, this request is to retroactively approve INN funding for work that has already been completed.

### **Background**

On September 23, 2010, the Commission approved Santa Clara County's INN Plan, which included seven multi-year INN Project proposals. The Plan's funding request totaled \$3,515,789, including administrative costs.

Standard Commission practice at that time appears to have been to include only the first year of funding in the staff presentation of county INN plans and in the approval motion for multi-year projects.

These projects subsequently were amended locally during the interval between enactment of Assembly Bill (AB) 100 in March 2011 and enactment of AB 1467 in June 2012, when Commission approval was not required.

Following re-enactment of the requirement for Commission approval of INN funding, one Santa Clara County project, the Peer-Run TAY INN Project, was administratively approved for additional funding by then-Interim Executive Director Sherri Gauger, in the amount of \$1,713,195. At that time, the Commission had delegated authority for such decisions to the Executive Director.

On June 9, 2015, MHSOAC staff conducted a teleconference with Santa Clara Behavior Health Services Department (BHSD) staff. During this teleconference, the County shared its intention to incorporate funding extensions for the four INN projects into its next MHSOAC Annual Update and delay formally requesting approval from the Commission until that Annual Update was submitted to the Commission. Commission staff concurred with this proposal.

On December 23, 2015, the MHSOAC received via email the County's *MHSOAC FY 2015/16 Annual Update* and a letter, dated December 21, 2015, formally requesting time extensions and budget expansions to the four named projects. The County's letter indicated that each of the four projects experienced start-up delays, necessitating more time and money to complete each project.

Commission staff engaged with Santa Clara County staff from February 2016 to May 2016 to clarify the County's request. During that period, the County provided revised dollar figures for three of the four amendment requests.

The four projects are as follows:

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| <b>Early Childhood Universal Screening Project</b> |                |
|--|----------------|
| Start Date   | August 1, 2013 |
| Approved Funds Exhausted As Of                     | July 31, 2015  |
| Proposed End Date                                  | July 31, 2016  |
| Additional Funding Approval Sought                 | \$691,163      |

| <b>Peer-Run Transition Age Youth Inn Project</b> |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Start Date                                       | October 1, 2011    |
| Approved Funds Exhausted As Of                   | September 30, 2015 |
| Proposed End Date                                | March 31, 2016     |
| Additional Funding Approval Sought               | \$669,714          |

| <b>Elders' Storytelling Project (formerly Older Adults Project)</b> |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Start Date  | November 1, 2012 |
| Approved Funds Exhausted As Of                                      | July 31, 2015    |
| Proposed End Date   | January 31, 2016 |
| Additional Funding Approval Sought                                  | \$240,193        |

| <b>Transitional Mental Health Services to Newly Released County Inmates Project (also known as Faith-Based Resource Collaborative Project)</b> |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Start Date   | November 1, 2012 |
| Approved Funds Exhausted As Of   | October 31, 2015 |
| Proposed End Date  | April 30, 2016   |
| Additional Funding Approval Sought   | \$376,972        |

The County or its Evaluation contractor has completed or will soon complete final evaluation reports on each of these four projects. The County intends to discuss some of their project findings in its presentation to the Commission.

**Conclusion**

The County seeks retroactive approval of INN expenditures for four projects, totaling \$1,978,042. The retroactive timing of this request reflects County reliance on conversations with MHSOAC staff in June 2015 to delay its formal request for Commission approval for these amendments until late December, 2015. Staff recommends the Commission now approve these amendment requests.

## Staff Innovation Summary—Santa Clara County

Staff communication standards and processes are being revised to minimize the future risk of miscommunication with counties regarding the necessity to bring timely funding requests forward to the Commission for formal consideration.