



COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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April 4, 2018
Orange County Board of Supervisors
10 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Technology Solutions MHSA Innovation Projects

Honorable Board Members,

The Orange County Mental Health Board (MHB) has had an opportunity to review and study the proposed Technology Solutions MHSA Innovation Project. After careful consideration the MHB has come to the conclusion that we are in support of this wonderful opportunity for our county.

This Technology Solutions Project is in line with the vision of MHSA Innovation Projects as it has the potential to change the mental health system of care for our county by implementing new strategies. The use of technology in mental health is proving to be a strategy that has tremendous potential for offering large scale impact by increasing access to services. Specifically, this project will allow the county to support individuals with mental illness by creating a 24-hour convenient bridge to mental health services. By the mere nature of this technology solutions project, individuals will have some anonymity in using the applications which will help alleviate any fear and stigma around accessing services. The benefits of this project will be especially magnified for our isolated and underserved populations. We also see tremendous benefits and engagement opportunities across the life span but particularly for our transitional aged youth (TAY) via a medium/method with which they are very comfortable and familiar.

The Technology Solutions Project presents Orange County with a timely opportunity to participate in a larger MHSA Innovation statewide effort. It is important to note that this project will not require the hiring of any additional BHS staff and that an evaluation component of the program is built into the budget and programmatic strategies. For all of these reason listed above, the members of the MHB support the adoption and implementation of this project. We humbly recommend that our Supervisors vote in support of funding the MHSA Technology Solutions Project.

Respectfully,


Michael Silva Rose, DrPH, LCSW
Mental Health Board Chair