



Request for One-Year Extension and Funding for MHSA Innovations and Improvement through Data (IITD)

NEED FOR A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Modoc County's current innovation project, Innovations and Improvement through Data (IITD), is a technology-based project which addresses the constant challenge to adequately collect, process, and interpret data for outcomes measurement. MCBH and Nevada County Behavioral Health were accepted by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) as the first counties to adopt eBHS, a more comprehensive and user-friendly registry, allowing for real-time information sharing across our healthcare systems.

MCBH continues to implement various measures in a dashboard-style to show an individual client's progress, including Milestones of Recovery Scale (MORS), Youth Outcomes Questionnaire (YOQ), Outcomes Questionnaire (OQ), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and General Anxiety Disorder -7 (GAD-7). MCBH is also using an interactive fidelity tool that allows for client feedback about each session.

The project started as expected, but our learning in the implementation process required a course correction after about one and one-half years into the project. During the first one and one-half years of the project, we learned that the original IT vendor was not able to produce the expected deliverables with the quality and timeliness needed for successful implementation.

We also learned that clinicians and clients found value in the types of tools we were implementing, but implementing them in a separate system created an undue data entry burden. To address these learnings, Modoc County made a major course correction to have the deliverables implemented by Kingsview and Cerner in our existing EHR. This will result in an increase in quality and timeliness, but requires additional time for Kingsview and Cerner to fully develop, implement, and test, and for project evaluation.

Original funding included payments to the first vendor for the first one and one-half years, which depleted the budget, but didn't produce the technology we expected. Additional funding is needed to allow Kingsview and Cerner to finish developing the necessary dashboards and reports for client treatment and evaluation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Original Approval

The original plan met all of the required elements of an Innovative proposal as stated in the Innovation Regulations and was approved by MHOAC on April 27, 2017. The project began on May 1, 2017.

Primary Purpose

The primary purpose for this project has not changed from the original purpose of increasing the data analytics capabilities of Modoc County. We are striving to meet this purpose through the following learning objectives:

- 1) To increase the quality of behavioral health services we provide by enhancing our ability to collect, analyze, and interpret client data
- 2) To use the data collected in a meaningful way for client improvement.

These learning objectives have not changed from the original plan, and are also intended to help other small counties master the hurdle of developing a data system that meets multiple data needs, including day-to-day clinical dashboards, population management data, and aggregate outcomes reporting for internal and external stakeholders.

Target Population

As originally planned, the target population remains severely mentally ill citizens of all ages in Modoc County.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The plan to request additional time and funding for this innovation was presented at stakeholder meetings, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meetings, and interviews with key informants throughout Modoc County (9/26/19, 10/27/19, 11/5/19, 11/6/19). It was posted for public comment within the MHSA Three-Year Plan from December 18, 2019 through January 18, 2020.

The 3-year plan, including the INN extension and funding request, was posted in five post offices throughout the county (Adin, Canby, Newell, Cedarville, Lake City), at the public library and in the County Courthouse. It was also distributed widely through email lists (schools, hospital, law enforcement, social services, veterans, Indian Health Affairs, churches, community organizations, etc.), to all Public and Mental Health Services workers, and was posted in the lobby of the Health Services clinic. Notices were printed for two consecutive weeks in the only Modoc newspaper as to the posting of the plan along with announcing the time, date and location of the Public Hearing.

A Public Hearing was conducted on January 23, 2020 in which, other than discussing the correction of the dates posted, there were no substantive comments, as reflected in the meeting minutes. The Board of Supervisors approved the plan on February 4, 2020.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME (1 Year)

The project is scheduled to terminate on April 30, 2021. We respectfully request that it be extended through April 30, 2022. This changes the plan from a four-year innovation project to a five-year innovation project.

As explained above, the plan started as expected, but our learning in the implementation process required a course correction after about one and one-half years of the project. During the one and one-half years of the project, we learned that the original IT vendor was not able to produce the expected deliverables with the quality and timeliness needed for successful implementation. We also learned that clinicians and clients found value in the types of tools we were implementing, but implementing them in a separate system created an undue data entry burden. To address these learnings, Modoc County made a major course correction to have the deliverables implemented by Kingsview and Cerner in our existing EHR.

These learnings will result in an increase in quality and timeliness, but require additional time to fully develop, implement, test, and evaluate the project.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING (\$91,224)

Modoc County would like to request \$91,224 of Innovation Funds for the additional year requested in this proposal.

	Original Funding Approved (4 year)	Additional Funding Requested (1 year)	Total Project Budget (5-year)
Innovation Funds	\$364,896.00	\$91,224.00	\$456,120.00
In-Kind Funds	\$311,453.00	\$77,863.25	\$389,316.25
Total INN Budget	\$676,349.00	\$169,087.25	\$845,436.25

Budget Narrative:

The number requested is derived by dividing the original funding approved by four to discover the cost of the funding for each of the original four years approved in the project. This number is then added to the original funding amount approved to reach the resulting five-year total project budget of \$456,120.00.

In-kind funds come from Modoc County in form of salaries and other expenses. The number listed for the fifth year is derived in the same manner as described above.

The Total INN Budget reflects the total of the original funding approved for the four-year project, plus the total amount of new funding added by extending it another year, resulting in the total five-year project budget.

Modoc County has no funds remaining which are subject to reversion.

Reason for additional funds

So much time and funding were used trying to work with the original vendor that additional funding is needed in order to finish the work on development/implementation/testing with Kingsview and Cerner and bring closure to the Innovation.

Use of additional funds

The additional funds approved will be used for dashboard development, implementation and testing through Kingsview and Cerner and additional consultation and project evaluation through CiBHS.

Evaluation Budget

The evaluation budget will remain at 7% (or \$12,228 total for four years of the contractor's budget plus \$3,057 for the additional fifth year, for a five-year total of \$15,285).

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

As mentioned above, Modoc has already gained valuable learning from this Innovation. We believe that extending the time and funding will also allow a greater understanding of how performance on the learning objectives improve over time and allow greater incorporation of client outcome measures into the evaluation. This is essential knowledge to improve quality of care and enhance client outcomes.

OTHER

Sustenance

If the project is judged to be effective, the ongoing cost of the access to dashboards, implementation in client treatment and training for clinicians will be covered by realignment and MHSA CSS administrative costs, just as originally proposed and approved. We can also incorporate staff training and technical assistance to build sustainable evaluation practices without need for an independent/external evaluator.

Additional Value to Extending Project

We are excited about this project and expect that it will be a success, however, because of the constraints listed above, it is not up and running, therefore, we cannot say that it is "going well." Based on our initial beginnings, we expect this project will be warmly embraced by clients and clinicians alike and that it will enhance and improve client outcomes. We are anxious to bring it to full implementation.



STAFF ANALYSIS - MODOC COUNTY (EXTENSION)

Innovative (INN) Project Name: Electronic Behavioral Health Solutions (eBHS) and Innovations and Improvement Through Data (IITD)

Extension Funding Requested for Project: \$91,224

Review History:

MHSOAC Original Approval Date:	April 27, 2017
Original Amount Requested:	\$364,896
Duration of INN Project:	4 Years

Current Request:

County Submitted Innovation Extension:	March 5, 2020
Approved by BOS:	February 4, 2020
MHSOAC Consideration of INN Project:	August 2020

Project History:

On April 27, 2017, Modoc County received Commission approval of up to \$364,896 of innovation spending authority over four (4) years for their Electronic Behavioral Health Solutions (eBHS) and Innovations and Improvement Through Data (IITD) innovation project which addresses the County's constant challenge to adequately collect, process, and interpret data for outcomes measurement.

With this project the county hopes to increase the quality of behavioral health services they provide by enhancing their ability to collect, analyze, and interpret client data, and to use the data collected in a meaningful way for improvement in client outcomes.

The county proposed using Innovation funds to purchase a three-pronged approach designed by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) for data collection to improve client outcomes which included:

1. a web-based flexible data system
2. a unique and advanced implementation planning method
3. data training for treatment and client supports.

Extension Request

The project started on May 1, 2017, but during the implementation phase, their current IT vendor was unable to integrate data into the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or develop the required dashboards and reports on client treatment and evaluation which delayed the county's ability to collect, analyze, and interpret their client data that would increase the quality of Modoc County's behavioral health services. In addition, the IT vendor was not able to provide the quality and accuracy of data integration into the EHR and in the timeframe that was needed, so the County decided to contract with two other vendors (Kingsview and Cerner).

The two new vendors will not have to start over but will finish what was started. This requires more time (the one year extension) and will also be able to incorporate the information into their Electronic Health Record system, which the clinicians found more easier to do then collecting this information separately (the need for more funding).

Therefore, Modoc County is requesting additional spending authority in the amount of \$91,224 and the additional one year to support the implementation of dashboards and reports on client treatment and the incorporation of this data directly into the EHR.

Given the technological nature of this project, Commission staff inquired about the use of Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CCFTN) funds for this extension. The county provided the following response:

“Our CFTN funds are exhausted and we decided not to transfer any funding out of CSS at this time because the project is just now getting functional, thus is still really an innovation. Because of its innovative quality our stakeholders approved applying for an extension in that category rather than using funding from CFTN. If we used CFTN funding, then we would need to submit a final report, which would be premature based on where we are in this project. When the extension is finished, we will then consider using CFTN monies for ongoing funding.”

The Community Program Planning (CPP) Process

The need for additional time and funding for this program were discussed during stakeholder meetings, Behavioral Health Advisory Board meetings, and interviews with key informants throughout Modoc County. They posted their MHSA Three Year Plan for 30-day public comment from December 18, 2019, through January 18, 2020. Modoc County held their public hearing on January 23, 2020, and their Board of Supervisors approved the plan on February 4, 2020.

The final version of this extension request was shared with the Commission's six stakeholder contractors and the listserv on March 6, 2020. No letters of support or opposition were received from the stakeholders or listserv.

The proposed project extension appears to meet the minimum requirements listed under MHSA Innovation regulations.