
AGENDA ITEM 8

Information

October 27, 2016 Commission Meeting

Overview of Triage Grant Program and Evaluation

Summary: At the Commission meeting Deputy Director Norma Pate will provide an overview of the Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 program and future funding. Director of Research Fred Molitor will present on the evaluation of the triage programs.

Background: In 2013, then Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg introduced Senate Bill 82, which enacted the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 (SB 82) that established competitive grants for crisis intervention and triage personnel. The purpose of the grants was to increase California's capacity for client assistance and services in crisis intervention including availability of crisis triage personnel, crisis stabilization, crisis residential treatment, rehabilitative mental health services, and mobile crisis support teams.

Under SB 82 there were two competitive grant opportunities. One grant program was administered by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (\$142 million one-time general fund allocation) to fund mobile crisis support teams, crisis stabilization, and crisis residential programs. The other grant program, administered by the Commission, provided \$32 million per year of state administrative Mental Health Services Act funds for counties to hire triage personnel statewide to provide intensive, short-term case management.

SB 82 became effective immediately, and required the Commission to promptly initiate a competitive application process. In developing the criteria for the application, the Commission obtained input from subject matter experts including homeless advocates, consumers and family members, counties, and representatives of unserved and underserved communities, veterans, hospitals, providers, criminal justice system and education. At the September 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the criteria for the competitive application. The grant was released in October 2013. In January 2014, the Commission awarded grants to 24 counties for triage personnel programs. These grants began in March of 2014 and are currently due to end in June 2017.

The Commission is responsible for the oversight of the triage personnel grant program. Staff conducts site visits, provides technical assistance, and facilitates quarterly triage coordinator meetings that provide an opportunity for peer to peer learning and to discuss challenges and lessons learned.

Part of the requirement is for counties to submit annual encounter bases data such as number of persons served, personnel hired, specific services provided, and unspent funds. Counties submitted the required evaluation of the effectiveness of their programs to the Commission on June 30, 2016. Norma Pate, Deputy Director, will present on the funding of triage programs after June 30, 2017. Dr. Fred Molitor, Director of Research, will summarize current and future efforts to evaluate triage programs.

Enclosures: None

Handout: PowerPoint will be handed out at the meeting

Recommended Action: None

Presenters:

- Norma Pate, Deputy Director
- Dr. Fred Molitor, Director of Research