



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

July 13, 2021

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

This letter serves as an addendum to the cover letter submitted on May 24 regarding the proposed resolution requesting the approval of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to adopt the FY21/22 San Francisco Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update (File No. 210636).

This letter is to address and acknowledge the concerns of members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Committee, Supervisor Mandelman, Supervisor Chan and Supervisor Preston, that were raised at the July 1, 2021 Government Audit & Oversight Committee meeting. This letter will also be submitted to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

As in other jurisdictions, **San Francisco is facing serious issues with homelessness and mental health crises occurring on the City's streets. MHSA is committed to being a part of San Francisco's mental health system transformation that provides mental health care to all San Franciscans who lack insurance or who are experiencing homelessness.** MHSA provides 51% of its funding to address serious mental health and co-occurring substance use challenges through our Full-Service Partnership programs. The MHSA team would like to highlight the following programs in the FY21/22 MHSA Annual Update that focus on addressing homelessness, providing street-based services and working with individuals with severe mental illness:

- Recovery-Oriented Treatment programs (page 42)
- Housing Services (page 91)
- Wellness in the Streets program (page 141)
- Shelter-in-Place (SIP) hotel peer-based services (pages 7, 33, and 147)

The team would like to also highlight the following programs in the FY21/22 MHSA Annual Update that focus on providing school-based services and services that address racism and equity issues:

- School-Based Mental Health Promotion (page 115)
- Population-Focused Mental Health Programs (page 121)
- FUERTE (page 141)
- Richmond Area Multi-Services programming (page 74, 119, 122, 133 and 140)

The State of California requires Counties to adhere to MHSA regulations. These regulations require MHSA funding to be used for prevention, early intervention, the behavioral health workforce, capital facilities, information technology, and other innovative services that adhere to the Wellness and Recovery Model. San Francisco MHSA funding, which is less than 8% of San Francisco Department of Public Health's Behavioral Health Services total annual budget in FY19/20, is meant



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to support and aide traditional mental health services that provide clinical treatment. With the recent passage of AB 2265, we are pleased that MHSA funding will be less restricted in future years when working with the substance use population, and is why substance use issues are not a priority in the FY21/22 MHSA Annual Update. MHSA regulations also mandate that the Annual Update report be structured in a specific format by outlining the local review process, the community program planning process and reporting on each funding component in a specific order.

In FY21/22, MHSA will continue to prioritize the underserved, those with mental health needs, and those with co-occurring substance use needs. Should you have any questions, please contact Tracey Helton, Acting Director of Mental Health Services Act. Ms. Helton can be reached at Tracey.Helton@sfdph.org.

Sincerely,

Hillary Kunins

Hillary Kunins, MD
Director of Mental Health SF and Behavioral Health Services