



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

June 9, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Wallace, Acting Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services

Subject: Support for Recommendations as to Implementation of AB 1421
Alternatives Developed by Alameda County Behavioral Health Services
Stakeholder's Group

RECOMMENDATION

Review additional background information related to the Mental Health Commission's recommendations regarding implementation of AB 1421 alternatives developed by Alameda County Behavioral Health Services stakeholder's group.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None identified.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In February 2014, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors considered ten recommendations from Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director, Alex Briscoe, connected to Assembly Bill (AB) 1421. The Board adopted the nine initiatives designed to engage this target population in voluntary services, and requested that Alameda County Behavioral Healthcare Services (ACBHCS) initiate a stakeholder planning process to address the tenth recommendation, an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) pilot project, and return with recommendations. The BOS action was as follows:

“The Board voted to direct staff to convene and use a working group of key stakeholders over a 90-day period to conduct a comprehensive review of the programs that could serve the population that is targeted by AB1421 for the purpose of considering alternatives to AB1421 that are more compassionate options for accomplishing the goals of AB1421 and bring back recommendations.”

In May 2014, ACBHCS began a stakeholder planning process to explore and identify programs and services that would meet the mental health care needs of the target population, evidenced by a reduction in unnecessary hospitalizations and an increase in engagement with mental health services. ACBHCS identified stakeholders based on the groups named in the AB1421 legislation, which provides guidance to planning processes, and to reflect unique aspects of the County's geography, population

demographics and service mix. The committee was comprised of twenty-four members, including consumers, family members, and service providers (including Berkeley Mental Health), as well as representatives from Alameda County's Social Services Agency, Sheriff's Office, and Public Defender.

ACBHCS engaged a consultant, Resource Development Associates (RDA), to design and implement this planning process. The recommendations of the stakeholder committee were submitted to ACBHCS in October 2014 to develop supporting budget and implementation details prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors. These recommendations were incorporated into a letter to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from Alex Briscoe on January 13, 2015. The letter outlines eleven system level recommendations, and does not include a pilot of AOT.

If ACBHCS is directed to enact the recommendations of the stakeholder committee, the City of Berkeley will not be required to enact any programs or required to make any changes to funding. These new programs will provide additional types of services for the residents of Berkeley who utilize the inpatient and acute care system within ACBHCS. The adoption of any of the recommendations of the stakeholder committee does not preclude the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from implementing AB 1421 at this or any other time.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the work of the ACBHCS stakeholder planning process, on November 19, 2013, the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution to urge the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to adopt recommendations for improved Mental Health Services as proposed by Health Care Services Director, Alex Briscoe, and in particular to approve the pilot of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) for five seriously ill clients.

The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act (AB 1421) was passed by the California State Assembly in 2002. AB1421, also known as "Laura's Law," was developed in response to the 2001 Nevada County shooting of a mental health worker by a man who was not participating in psychiatric treatment. AB1421 provides court-ordered intensive outpatient services for individuals with a recent history of recurrent psychiatric emergency room visits and hospitalizations who are significantly deteriorating and unwilling or unable to engage in voluntary services to support their recovery. These programs, known as Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), attempt to address a gap in the continuum of treatment for these individuals. Services provided in AOT include psychological and substance abuse services; medication support; housing assistance; family and parenting support; peer support; and age, gender and culturally appropriate services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation is being made.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Berkeley City Council could choose not to make any recommendation to Alameda County Board of Supervisors concerning the implementation of AB 1421 Alternatives developed by Alameda County Behavioral Health Services Stakeholder's Group.

CONTACT PERSON

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