

**County of San Luis Obispo
Behavioral Health Department
Mental Health Services Act**

Mental Health Advisory Committee (MAC) Stakeholder Group Meeting:

This document is proof of stakeholder involvement in decision making priorities and practices for the County of San Luis Obispo Mental Health Services Act programs.

The MAC Stakeholder Group asserts that they have fully understood and made a decision regarding the changes for the following program/service:

SLO Behavioral Health -Justice Services/CAT Team	
Current Program/Service	New Changes/Updates to Program/Services Adding 4.0 Limited Term Positions 2.0 FTE – LPT 1.0 FTE – BH Specialist 1.0 FTE – Administrative Assistant
Current Total Amount: \$0.00	New Total Amount: \$374,997 (The CATS program in MHSA will begin 10/1/2023, so first year costs will be only nine months)

Justification:

- San Luis Obispo County, Behavioral Health-Justice Services, requests support to add 4.00 limited-term positions to the Community Action Teams (CATs) program. The Community Action Teams (CATs) program uses an outreach and early intervention strategy to assist law enforcement in safe, productive encounters with individuals demonstrating issues related to severe mental illness (SMI) or co-occurring disorders (COD).
- The CATs program embeds clinical staff alongside responding field officers in targeted areas to provide immediate, warm, and safe engagement with individuals exhibiting Behavioral Health or substance use challenges. While some encounters are related to psychiatric crises, the CATs intervention focuses on creating a proactive, preventive approach to support law enforcement who often have limited options other than arrest.
- The CATs will divert individuals from arrest and booking, expanding mobile crisis and evaluation services, which can then reduce impacts on the jail, emergency departments, and the inpatient Psychiatric Health Facility. In addition to field interventions, the CATs' Clinicians and law enforcement (LE) partners will establish a procedure to identify individuals with SMI or COD who are frequently or routinely encountered by LE or the criminal justice system. CATs will reach out to those individuals before their next encounter to offer services and support to reduce recidivism.
- The request includes an Administrative Assistant I/III to support the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and expanded Community Action Teams programs. The Behavioral Health Department's expansion of homeless services outreach and treatment services requires additional administrative support in the Justice Services Division. The AA assigned to Justice Services will provide reception, help community members with intake and program paperwork, provide system navigation, and support program data collection, procedures, and communication.
- The AA is necessary to provide documentation and scheduling support to enhance Medi-Cal billing.

Outcomes:

- The CATs will increase the community's capacity to divert adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) or a co-occurring disorder (COD), including veterans, to community-based services prior to arrest and booking.
- The CATs will reduce the number of people with SMI or COD booked into jail.
- The CATs will lower the rate of recidivism for individuals with SMI or COD who are frequently encountered by law enforcement.

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023: **Add additional funding support to SLO BH-Justice Services/CAT Team.**

[X] SLOBHD Staff recommends approval by the MAC Stakeholder Group as specified above.

[] SLOBHD Staff does not recommend approval by the MAC Stakeholder Group as specified above.

Notes:

