



Legislation Text

File #: 13-0462, **Version:** 1

Health and Human Services Agency, Mental Health Division, recommending the Board authorize the Director to sign a letter of support for the Community Resource Center's grant application to the California Mental Health Services Authority for a Small and Frontier County Mental Health Community Dialogue grant.

FUNDING: This letter of support has no financial implication to the County.

Fiscal Impact/Change to Net County Cost

None.

Background

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), through its Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Initiative, is making available mini-grants up to \$30,000 in small or rural counties to host community dialogue events focusing on the content of a documentary produced by KVIE, a Sacramento Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television station. According to the grant application, "The KVIE documentary tells the stories of everyday Californians through their struggles, recovery and resilience in the face of mental health challenges. The documentary, which is slated for release in May 2013, also provides a behind-the-headlines look at the far reaching negative effects of stigma and discrimination associated with mental health challenges."

The purpose of the grants is to provide funding and toolkits to organizations "to gather leaders to view the documentary and to conduct in-person panels or forums about stigma and discrimination. The discussions may take a variety of forms, ideally interactive and lively, about the topic and its manifestation in local communities. Grantees will also perform broad outreach to promote the events and reinforce CalMHSA anti-stigma messaging."

El Dorado County is a member of CalMHSA, an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes. CalMHSA administers three statewide Prevention and Early Intervention programs (Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health) funded through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) (MHSA).

Reason for Recommendation

El Dorado County recognizes our community partners' activities, including those of the Community Resource Center, in raising awareness about mental health issues and working towards the reduction of stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. As stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness is reduced, individuals who would benefit from mental health services are more likely to seek assistance, and the early provision of mental health services can greatly improve an individual's quality of life and minimize or eliminate future crisis events.

Through the Community Dialogue Grants, local events will be held to open discussion about mental illness stigma and discrimination reduction. The Community Resource Center wishes to facilitate these events, and requested a letter of support from the County's Health and Human Services

Agency to submit with their grant application per the grant application instructions. The Community Resource Center works with individuals and families in El Dorado County who are at risk of becoming, or are already, homeless. Many of the people the Community Resource Center assists have experienced mental health issues and/or received a mental illness diagnosis. Their clients often experience the type of stigma and discrimination this Community Dialogue Grant seeks to reduce.

The Community Resource Center will bring a unique perspective to the dialogue given their experience, and meet the goals of the Community Dialogue Grant through local collaborative community dialogue events, including direct and focused contact with the El Dorado County Continuum of Care, faith-based organizations, and community and political leaders.

As stipulated in Board of Supervisors Policy A-5, Grant Endorsements for Non-County Agencies, Departments are required to obtain approval from the Board of Supervisors prior to providing endorsement for non-county grant applications.

Action(s) to be taken following Board approval

HHSA Director to sign and forward the letter of support to the Community Resource Center for submittal with their grant application.

Contact

Janet Walker-Conroy, Interim Director

Concurrences

None.