

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Dave Cortese




BOSD301 06-17-2009

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DATE: June 17, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District 3

SUBJECT: Restore \$990,340 funding to the Mental Health Department for mental health services to uninsured children.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to financing for the following programs serving uninsured children in the County of Santa Clara:

- a) Add back \$635,000 to fund 11 Family and Children's contract providers. These services will include evidence based models of short-term treatment to maximize service capacity.
- b) Add back \$354,000 to the County of Santa Clara to restore 3.0 FTE County Clinicians (one for each of the three county clinics).

In addition, the Mental Health Department will work diligently on their MHSA funded planning process to review and possibly restructure the children's system of care so that in the future these services can be funded with MHSA monies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a one time cost to the General Fund of \$990,340, proposed to come from the State Budget Reserve.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Children can be experiencing mental health issues and not even realize their predicament. The difficult economic times we are facing is not only making the budget process painful, it is creating pain for families in our county. Youth are struggling to cope with family circumstances that are only worsened by the economy. This proposal would ensure that such youth who do not have insurance can still access mental health services to help them cope with their surroundings, so they do not result to tragic means for dealing with life.

The County of Santa Clara is the only government agency which can do something now to try to help them.

This recommendation is intended as bridge or gap financing until the Mental Health Department can figure out a way to get MHSA funds to continue these programs. It is estimated that over 450 uninsured children will be helped through this proposal.

BACKGROUND

The MHD FY10 Recommended Budget includes several reductions that would impact children (approximately 450) who have no health insurance coverage.

If approved, this proposal calls for the restoration of funds to support County Children's Programs and Contract Children's Programs, using the State Budget Reserve as the source of funds on a one time basis.