

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Mental Health Services



HHS07 060909


Prepared by: Alexia Worsham  
Contracts Manager  
Mary Lou Fitzpatrick  
Contract Analyst

Reviewed by: Pat Garcia  
Acting Administrative Services Director

Submitted by: Nancy Pena, Ph.D  
Director, Mental Health Department

DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Memoranda of Understanding with Physical Health Plan Providers

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to Memoranda of Understanding with managed care plans and health care plans to provide services to Santa Clara County Medi-Cal and Healthy Family beneficiaries.

Possible action:

- a. Approve delegation of authority to the SCVHHS Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to execute various Memoranda of Understanding with managed care plans and health care plans to provide services to Santa Clara County Medi-Cal and Healthy Family beneficiaries, for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, following approval by

County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2012.

- b. Approve delegation of authority to the SCVHHS Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to execute any subsequent amendments to said agreements, to include but not be limited to, extending the term for additional 12-month periods, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2012.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action.

## **CONTRACT HISTORY**

These MOUs are required by the State in order to insure that there is appropriate coordination of care. The MOUs are non-monetary and only serve to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties, and to coordinate the separate services that the Mental Health Department (MHD), Medi-Cal managed care plans and Healthy Families Plans each provide to Santa Clara County beneficiaries. There is no exchange of services or funds between the parties. MHD is required to enter into these MOUs to be in compliance with the Managed Care Agreement with the State of California and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board requirements.

MOUs have been executed with the following managed care plans and Healthy Families Plan providers since 1998: Blue Cross of California (Healthy Families) MOU was first signed July 30, 1998; Blue Shield of California (Healthy Families) on August 10, 1999; Santa Clara County Family Health Plan (Healthy Families) on April 13, 2000; Healthnet (Healthy Families) on April 18, 2002; and Blue Cross (Medi-Cal) on December 17, 2003.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of the recommended action will allow MHD to enter into MOUs with Medi-Cal managed care plans and Healthy Families Program health care plans expeditiously which will permit MHD to comply with State regulations requiring the execution of these MOUs.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

Since June 1998, MHD has been operating, under a State contract, as the local mental health plan (MHP) providing specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. State regulations governing the operation of the MHP (Title 9, Section 1810.370) requires the MHP to enter into MOUs with Medi-Cal managed care plans describing the responsibilities of each party to deliver specialty mental health services to beneficiaries who are served by both parties.

### **Healthy Families Program Enrollees**

Under State law, county mental health departments are required to assure that seriously emotionally disturbed children in the county receive medically necessary services when their condition has been determined to be eligible for department services. Under the Healthy Families Program (HFP), health care plans have been selected by the State to provide health insurance to children that would otherwise be uninsured. These health care plans are not responsible for providing mental health services to treat a HFP member's serious emotional disturbance. Therefore, the HFP health care plans are

required to enter into MOUs with county mental health departments to coordinate mental health services to beneficiaries with serious emotional disturbances.

**CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended actions may delay MHD from otherwise processing these MOUs in an expeditious timeframe.