RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2012-477

MEETING: September 18, 2012

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Rydingsword, Human Services Director

RE: Approve Adoption of Client Services Policy for Human Services MH Clients

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the proposed Client Services Policy for mental health clients effective November 1, 2012.

Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has provided mental health services to Mariposa County residents since June of 2004. During that time we have served clients regardless of their ability to pay. Each client has signed a financial responsibility statement making them aware of the need to pay for services not covered by some form of insurance. We have sent monthly statements requesting payment and even though we have consistently billed we have received very little financial compensation in return.

The individual reimbursement for these clients in 2011-12 was an estimated $27,500 leaving unpaid costs in 2011-12 that were covered by Mental Health Program Realignment funds estimated at $315,000. It is not required in the State Law that local mental health departments will cover the costs of private pay clients from either Mental Health Program Realignment funds or from County General Funds. In most California counties, private health insurance and private pay clients are referred to community private providers. It is anticipated that this action, over the long term, will free up Mental Health Program Realignment funds for other Mental Health activities in the community.

This Client Services Policy is designed to address this issue. We are proposing that, beginning in November 1, 2012, according to State requirements, we will continue to serve adult clients who are identified as having severe disabling mental illness (SMI), children who are severely emotionally disturbed (SED), and clients who are in crisis, regardless of ability to pay.

We are also proposing that behavioral health set up a financial services office to assist in qualifying as many clients as possible to receive our services. Clients who qualify for our services and have a share of cost, will be required to pay that share at the time of service. Clients who do not meet the criteria will be sent a letter encouraging them to come in and see what services they will qualify for. Those who do not qualify will be given a list of community providers they can contact for services in the community and in communities that are close to where clients live in other counties. We are proposing a transition period of up to eight months.
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for clients who do not qualify. This action will free up resources to allow us to allow Mariposa County options for the use of these funds for community mental health services.

There is no increase to County General Funds associated with the recommended action. It is anticipated that this action, over the long term, will free up Mental Health Program Realignment funds for other Mental Health activities in the community.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Department will continue to operate as they have in the past, with the same negative financial consequences.

ATTACHMENTS:
Client Services draft & policy Cover Letter v.(5)- Attachment A  (DOC)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jim Allen, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTE ORDER

TO: JIM RYDINGSWORD, Human Services Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Approve the Proposed Client Services Policy for Mental Health Clients Effective November 1, 2012

RES. 12-477

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
ADOPTED THIS Order on September 18, 2012

ACTION AND VOTE:

K. Regular Agenda Items
6. Human Services/Behavioral Health & Recovery Services RES-2012-477
   Approve the Proposed Client Services Policy for Mental Health Clients Effective November 1, 2012
   Discussion was held with Jim Rydingsword/Human Services Director; and he advised that they are working with County Counsel on cases where people have not paid for services, and he noted they are okay with Supervisor Bibby's suggestion of working with the Probation revenue and recovery on collections. Supervisor Bibby requested that Human Services bring back a report on the status of potential recovery on collections. Supervisor Turpin expressed concern with the lack of services for veterans; and he asked that staff keep track of needs that are not covered.
   RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
   MOVER: Jim Allen, District V Supervisor
   SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
   AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen

Cc: Bill Davis, Auditor
    Supervisor Bibby
    Supervisor Turpin
    File