

Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership
Funding Request and Change Form

Date: 1/14/21

Requesting Agency: Department of Health Services – Behavioral Health Division

Contact: Sid McColley

Phone: (707) 565-4935

Email: Sid.McColley@sonoma-county.org

Is Request One-time or On-going? On-going.

Request Amount

Current FY: \$110,626 (with Feb 1st start date)

Annualized: FY 22/23: \$234,742 for salary, benefits, services and supplies

Request Title: Behavioral Health Clinician

I. Description of Funding Request/Change

The Department of Health Services – Behavioral Health Division (DHS-BHD) is requesting ongoing funding for a Behavioral Health Clinician (BHC) dedicated to providing mental health screenings, intake assessments, risk assessments, court reports, and coordination to the appropriate level of care for individuals referred by the criminal justice system. The Forensic Services Health Program Manager is currently providing this function for the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment and Diversion programs, as the BHCs assigned to the programs are dedicated to providing clinical and case management services to enrolled clients. This takes time away from being able to do program development and administrative and clinical management of staff and program operations and slows down processes as the HPM cannot focus solely on moving individuals out of jail and into treatment programs. Because of changes in the law beginning January 2022, court referrals to the Diversion program will dramatically increase. This new BHC position would be able to work closely with the jail and other criminal justice partners to provide early identification of individuals eligible for behavioral health programs and provide recommendations regarding best program fit. This comports with the County's participation in Stepping Up, the national initiative to reduce in custody time for people with mental illness and connect them with community-based treatment and supports.

Having this position would allow DHS-BHD to screen and assess individuals in the criminal justice system at a faster pace, reducing what is now a 30 day to 3-month lag time depending on the program.

II. Resource Requirements

The BHC will need a workstation at the FACT/Diversion site on Professional Drive.

III. Staffing Requested

1 Behavioral Health Clinician

IV. This request most closely aligns with Tier:

Tier 1: Specifically for realigned offenders.

Tier 2: Clearly assists with County's criminal justice system overall, but may not directly or exclusively impact AB 109 offenders.

Tier 3: Provides ancillary benefits to criminal justice in Sonoma County.