



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ⁰¹⁵⁵

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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September 20, 1999

AGENDA: September 28, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St., Fifth Floor
Santa Cruz, CA. 95061

SUBJECT: Report on implementation of Adolescent Drug Treatment Services

Dear Members of the Board:

Background:

Beginning in June of 1998, your Board provided direction to various county departments to develop a plan and recommendations to fill critical service gaps for adolescents with drug addiction problems. This report is an update on these efforts and the work on implementing various recommendations presented to your Board in the 1999 budget hearings.

- Probation Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Beds: The twelve residential beds for drug involved Probation youth are operational and accepting referrals. Out-of-county placement for local youth with drug abuse problems is no longer necessary. The new program provides all services in Spanish and English and has a strong cultural competency component, under the direction of Ernesto Molena of Palomares Group Homes.
- Juvenile Challenge Grant is close to implementation with sites identified in North and South County and staff being hired and trained. This will provide intensive day treatment and rehabilitation services as alternatives to group homes. These services will include school, treatment, Probation supervision, and rehabilitation services including weekend and evening hours. Additional detail on this program will be provided by the Probation Department.

- Si Se Puede Residential Treatment Beds: Your Board approved funds for three beds for older adolescents at the Si Se Puede Residential Treatment Program in January of 1999. In June 1999 the program began providing services to this target group with a new state waiver and enhanced supervision to address the needs of younger residents.
- Above The Line Residential Treatment Program: This new program for homeless youth has a strong substance abuse service component. It has strong private sector funding and Medical treatment funding for clinical services. It has addressed a critical gap in the care system for homeless youth. Residential services will commence no later than mid-October.
- Drug Treatment Beds for Youth not in the Juvenile Justice system: The Health Services Agency recently completed an RFP process for selection of a provider for this new program for 10 residential treatment beds. Two proposals were received, and the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center was selected as the best provider for the new services.

Until a site is identified, a final budget and implementation plan cannot be developed. The Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center is working with several realtors and the county on a site search. In addition to site location activities,, the staff are analyzing new impacts created by State changes in the AFDC-FC foster care rate setting system for group homes. A 10% increase in group home rates significantly impacts the original budget approved by your Board in June 1999. Other changes in state requirements for group homes also impact program costs. One new requirement includes the responsibility to report parents of voluntarily placed youth to the Department of Justice State Database. This poses a major problem for parents who are trying to get their family members help for drug abuse problems. Legislation may be required to change this requirement.

Given all of these factors, the High Risk Drug Task Force will be reconvening to re-evaluate the program budget and start up plan. The original goals included location of a facility, renovation and licensing, with all start up activities completed by March 2000. The State changes and the current challenges in location of a facility may impact this timeline. Following a complete analysis of the rate impacts and facility issues, a report will be made to your Board with updated recommendations for this program component.

- Transitional Housing for Youth: As discussed in the budget, the Human Resources Agency and the Health Services Agency continue to work on developing a new transitional housing program for youth aging out of foster care. This program would take advantage of new State funding sources.

Recommendations:

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

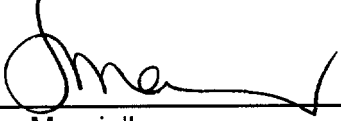
1. Accept and file this report on youth treatment initiatives and direct the Health Services Agency, in conjunction with the Human Resources Agency, to provide a further update for the Board on November 9, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles M. Moody
Health Services Agency Administrator

CM:RK:ep

RECOMMENDED



Susan Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Health Services Agency
Human Resource Agency
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services