

September 17, 2021

Behavioral Health Director
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Sacramento, CA 95823

To: Ryan Quist, PhD

Re: Feedback on Sacramento County Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-23

The Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback as a recommending body and supports the budget priority process for Fiscal Year 2022-23. We appreciate how the County has provided transparency during this process and the inclusion of community voice, and encourages this participation in future planning events.

In response to your request, the MHSA Steering Committee has determined these recommendations in order of importance for Sacramento County Budget Priorities for FY 2022-23:

All priorities listed below should emphasize the overarching goals of trauma informed care, services designed to meet needs by age population and cultural competence/humility and accountability.

1. **Housing and Services for Homeless**, including homeless services for the entire age spectrum (adolescent, transition age youth, adults, older adults); homeless services for LGBTQ+ youth; homeless initiatives; affordable and accessible housing programs; continued focus on assisting the unhoused; and Permanent Supportive Housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.
2. **Mental Health Services**, including increased access and support for mental health and substance abuse; adults with the severest mental conditions; adolescents with the severest mental conditions; children with the severest mental conditions; and crisis Residential Services.
3. **Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services**, including increased access and support for mental health and substance abuse; increased capacity for detox, substance use disorder residential treatment and recovery residences; and as the community population ages in Sacramento, ensuring that the unique older adults' mental health needs are identified and met within the provider system of care.
4. **Prevention Services**, including Prevention and Early Intervention Mental Health Funding; children's services in juvenile justice prevention; and children's services/child welfare prevention (preventing formal intervention).
5. **Addressing Racism / Racial Justice**, including addressing racism as a public health crisis; and racial justice through mental health support services.

The budget priorities listed above were compiled from a survey that was sent to MHSA Steering Committee members and the results were discussed and refined at our meeting on September 16, 2021. In addition to the top five priorities listed above, the members also determined Community Based Mental Health Centers; Workforce Development, Training and Support; and Alternatives to 911 for Mental Health as important priorities to also consider.

Respectfully submitted,

MHSA Steering Committee