



County of San Diego

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NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MAIL STOP P-531
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-3806
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

ALFREDO AGUIRRE
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

November 30, 2015

Toby Ewing, PhD
Executive Director
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
1300 17th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Ewing:

The Faith Based Initiative (INN-13) of the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Division was approved by the MHSOAC on February 26, 2015 for \$1,495,575 over three years. The Faith Based Initiative has four components: 1) Collaboration and Partnerships, 2) Community Education, 3) Crisis Response, and 4) Wellness and Health Ministry. The components address concomitant barriers in developing collaborations and partnerships in behavioral health services and faith communities in the African-American and Latino communities in two regions of San Diego County.

The purpose of this letter is to request authorization to expand the Faith Based Initiative by \$336,401 annually or \$1,009,203 for the three years. The complete expenditure for three fiscal years will be \$2,504,778. This expansion will allow for the implementation of Crisis Response and Wellness & Health Ministry components in the North Inland region as the original plan did not allocate funds for these components in this region of the county.

The primary goals of the Faith Based Initiative have not changed, and the following learning objectives remain the same:

1. Determine if the Wellness & Health Ministry by pairing a faith based leader/clergy and a BHS specialist increases engagement of individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness while in jail in outpatient mental health treatment post discharge.
2. Determine if collaborating and partnering with faith based leaders/clergy through outreach and engagement in a culturally relevant approach develops a cadre of "Faith Based Champions" or "Faith Based Community Workers" within congregations to assist in the development of trusting and lasting collaborations and partnerships that are culturally relevant and sensitive and are consistent with faith based beliefs.
3. Determine if this key collaborative program will increase the access to underserved groups to mental health care and reduce stigma in this community.

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4. Determine if the proposed outreach and engagement approaches increases awareness, knowledge and de-stigmatizes seeking mental health, alcohol and other drug and support services and how to access them.
5. Determine at a practice level if a community/home based mobile Behavioral Health and Faith Based crisis response team is a strategy that is effective in assisting Faith Based leaders and clergy in their response to emergencies by providing support, consultation and resources to address untreated mental illness or mental health conditions, trauma, bereavement and other needed relevant resources for the individual or family.
6. Determine at a systems level if culturally competent collaborations and partnerships are formed, developed and sustained with faith-based congregations/clergy and community leaders to address unmet mental health needs and increase access to appropriate services in the community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adrienne Yancey, MHSA Coordinator, at (619) 584-5075. The County of San Diego looks forward to MHSOAC's approval in order to continue this valuable learning opportunity.

Sincerely,



ALFREDO AGUIRRE, LCSW, Director
Behavioral Health Services

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