

## DSH Diversion RFA Round 2

### Final County Questions

### March 8, 2019

#### **FUNDING AND CONTRACTS**

- *At this time we have two people with felony charges waiting for State Hospital as incompetent to stand trial. In FY 16-17 we had 42 in a single year. The population includes people with a great variety of needs, including many who require costly locked programs similar to the State Hospital. By your own estimate, the program estimates costs of on average \$142,000 per enrollee per year. It would be impossible to serve the entire target population with the amount of resources the State has allocated. Is it permissible to target a program at only a subset of individuals who meet the target population and whose needs can be met within the resources available?*

The funding level calculated for each county is intended to fund 20-30% of the county's FY16-17 referrals. DSH will consider proposals that yield a higher average cost per enrollee per year with justification outlining the reasons why the cost would be higher in your county. Please also note that counties can leverage other benefits that individuals may qualify for such as SSI/SSDI and Medi-Cal to stretch the dollars for services. Additionally, there is a 10-20% local county match (based on county size) required that would help to increase the total amount available to serve individuals, depending on how a county opts to structure and contribute matching funds.

- *Can the grant funds be used to pay for services delivered in jail prior to release to diversion services?*

Yes, funds can be used to pay for an average of 15 days of treatment in jail prior to transfer to diversion services.

- *Can the grant be used to pay for Probation supervision?*

Yes, funds can be used to pay for probation supervision of participants while they are in a DSH-funded program.

#### **General Population**

- *Are counties expected to serve the total target population each year of the contract?*

The target population set in the contract with DSH is the expected census over the course of the contract, not the expected census each year of the contract. This is because the law allows a client to be diverted for a period of up to two years.

## DSH Diversion County Questions

- *The program targets individuals “at risk of being deemed IST on a felony charge.” Does this include those individuals whose competency has not yet been evaluated but has been questioned? Does this include individuals whose charges could be reduced to misdemeanors?*

An individual “at risk of being deemed IST” is someone who has not been formally declared incompetent by the court but it’s reasonable to assume they could be if court proceedings carried on. The county has discretion to make this determination.

DSH funding can only be used to support patients arrested on a felony charge; if the charge is reduced to a misdemeanor prior to diversion, that individual cannot be supported by the funds allocated by DSH.

- *The eligible diagnoses for AB1810 are very broad, but the DSH program appears to be limited to individuals with Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Bipolar Disorder. Is DSH open to expanding the eligible diagnosis to more than just these three?*

The criteria for the DSH Diversion program are set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code 4361. Per WIC, only individuals diagnosed with Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Bipolar Disorder are eligible for a DSH-funded program. This is based on our research indicating that at least 70% of the ISTs admitted to the state hospitals have one of these three primary diagnoses which are all highly responsive to treatment. Counties can divert a wider range of individuals under AB1810 broadly, however the DSH Diversion funding program is targeted to this smaller subset of the AB1810 population.

### **Other Questions**

- *The focus of this grant appears to be on the levels of mental health treatment an individual may need and there is no requirement for a specialized restoration of competency program that includes education about the justice system. Is this correct?*

Correct, there is no requirement to provide education about the justice system to participants.