

AC Health Care Services Agency EPSDT 2012-13 Plan

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is pleased to announce a \$10 million expansion in EPSDT mental health services for children. This is a significant initiative for low-income children and families who receive Medi-Cal benefits and, too often, have limited access to federally entitled health care services. This expansion is made possible by trailer bill language associated with Local Revenue Fund 2011 (Realignment) related to the shift of the responsibility for EPSDT from the state to California counties.

Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) is planning to expand these services strategically to address existing service and geographic gaps, target at-risk youth, comply with State mandates, meet the needs of Alameda County's diverse population, and improve service delivery through best and promising practice models. This effort will be led by the Agency's Behavioral Health Care Services Children's System of Care (BHCS CSOC). Community-based providers will be notified of the staging of this expansion and the release of Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Announcements will be made on the Behavioral Health Care Services website and at existing BHCS meetings.

This expansion will be completed in three phases over the next six months. By necessity, we will be moving quickly. Phase I will be focused on expanding existing contracts in the Priority Program Categories below, and will include at least 5 million dollars of contract enhancements. Phase II will be a RFP for new programs, but we intend to restrict the applicant pool to existing providers (may be some exceptions), and Phase III will be focused on insuring providers in the Priority Program Categories that are impacted or at capacity have some access to contract enhancements during the fiscal year.

Only providers that meet the following requirements will be eligible for any phase of this expansion.

Minimum Requirements

- Finalized (or submitted final contract renewal documents) for FY 2012-13 contracts;
- Submitted Year-End Cost Reports for 2011-12 by the September 30, 2012 deadline;
- Hire additional staff within 30 days of the Board of Supervisors approval of the contract amendment;
- Program claiming at 65% level no later than 90 days after staff hiring; and
- Quarterly financials submitted to the Network Office by the specified due dates.

Priority Program Categories

Expansion 2012-13 will target the following priority categories:

- **School Based Programming in Pre-Kindergarten Through 12th Grade:** These services will target school-aged children and youth throughout Alameda County and provide short-term school based mental health services that align with School Based Behavioral Health Initiative models.
- **Youth involved in Probation:** These services will target children and youth who are involved in juvenile justice probation and have underlying mental health issues that contribute to negative behaviors. Services will be provided to prevent recidivism and promote positive youth development. The services will be community and home based and provided throughout Alameda County.

- **Transition Age Youth (TAY):** These services will target youth age 16-21. The services will provide mental health services throughout Alameda County.
- **Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Services:** All services will be culturally and linguistically responsive to the unique needs of each child and youth served. The services will target children, and youth and their families who may require additional support and language access in at least one or more of all of Alameda County's threshold languages.
- **Innovative Programming:** The services will be evidence based and/or promising practices that match the needs of the identified target population. These services will be provided throughout Alameda County.

Expansion will be implemented in three phases with the goal of maximizing EPSDT revenue in the fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 and beyond. BHCS will use specific, pre-defined criteria to determine expansion for each phase and priority program categories. Fiscal targets for the programmatic categories defined above are under development. Phases I and II will occur concurrently.

Phase I: Contract Augmentation for Existing Programs

BHCS will conduct a review of existing contracted programs in the target areas that have clearly demonstrated one or more of the following:

- Are at capacity;
- Provide culturally and linguistically responsive services;
- Currently use a documented evidenced based and/or promising practice.

BHCS CSOC, in collaboration with BHCS' Network Office will work with the contracted providers to increase staffing and services via contract augmentation and amendment.

Phase II: Target RFI/RFP in Priority Program Categories

BHCS will develop a request for proposals (RFP) for new services with input from ACCESS, TAY, Family Partner leadership, 0-8 Convergence, underserved school districts, Full Service Community Schools and Neighborhoods, charter school representatives and Probation Youth Development Program planning leads. RFPs are targeted for release in Fall 2012 and focus on one or more of the identified priority program categories.

Phase III: Contract Augmentations for Providers at Capacity in Priority Program Categories

BHCS CSOC and the Network Office will conduct a review of all existing contracts to determine if they are currently meeting contract utilization targets. BHCS CSOC and the Network Office will create a plan to improve the outcomes for youth and families served in contracted programs. Part of the plan will include revised contract deliverables, technical assistance, and contractor adoption of best practice models.

This phase may span multiple months and may result in the issuance of new RFPs for the priority program categories and services or renegotiation of existing contracts.