

Health Department CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners (3) pages

FROM: Health Department CBAC

DATE: April 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following document contains recommendations for the Health Department's Fiscal Year 2019 out of target program offers. In developing these suggestions, we relied on the guiding principles of our values statement. Our mission is to invest County dollars where they can be most impactful: in areas that reduce health disparities, promote racial justice and transform the health of our community, especially those who have historically been underserved.

PROCESS

To inform our recommendations for FY 2019, we met with leadership from each division. These meetings began in December 2017 and continued throughout the new year. Our goal was to gain critical knowledge about successes and challenges throughout the department. Through our conversations, we were able to make informed decisions about which out of target programs are necessary to reduce health disparities and promote and protect the health of all Multnomah County residents.

EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

Multnomah County continues to navigate a challenging fiscal environment. The Health Department experienced another year of reduced County General Fund contributions (-2 percent). However, the Jan. 2018 closure of FamilyCare resulted in an overall moderate budget increase. Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as the Department's primary care clinics took on additional Medicaid clients.

Members: *Baher Butti, Alejandrina Felipe, Mariya Klimenko, Josué Peña-Juárez, Héctor Rodríguez-Ruiz, Deme Shor, Jean Trygstad* **Staff:** *María Lisa Johnson, Wendy Lear, Mark Lewis, Eric Richardson*

Health CBAC

Amidst a difficult financial landscape, Multnomah County continues to grapple with significant challenges in health. With another year of population growth, the County is nearing 800,000 residents, creating unprecedented demand for health services in our schools and clinics. Meanwhile, rising income inequality and limited access to housing has resulted in a housing crisis. This year's Point in Time count revealed 4,177 residents living without shelter, underscoring the need for continued investment in health housing programs.

In January 2017, Disability Rights Oregon released the report "[Mental Illness in the Multnomah County Detention Center](#)". Beyond calling for strengthened support for individuals with disabilities in the jails, the report highlighted the need for continued investment in Corrections Health's workforce by improving capacity, access to training and recruitment of skilled staff. We believe reported employment and morale issues among staff are a significant obstacle to providing adequate care in a challenging environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our recommendations reflect our effort to strategically respond to our county and community's evolving need. Given the uncertain financial climate, we chose to recommend investments in programs that improve access and health outcomes for the county's most vulnerable residents. We urge prioritizing funding for the following programs in the Chair's 2019 budget:

1. #40074B - Mental Health Residential Services \$65,000

This will result restored services for older adults in crisis as referred by Adult Protective Services. Primarily restoring 1.0 FTE contracted Mental Health Counselor, which will impact approximately 96 older adults per year with a loss of approximately 920 direct client service hours that provide face to face assessments, interventions, outreach. counseling, consultation and temporary case management.

2. #40052B - Adding One Deputy Medical Examiner \$62,846

The County has not increased deputy medical examiner staffing since 1975 while the population has increased over 25% as have deaths and deaths requiring investigation. Will likely decrease overtime and need for on-call staff.

3. #40024B - Student Health Centers K-8 client Transition Activities \$254,200

One time only funding will allow closure and transitioning of these K-8 sites to meet larger unmet demand in east county.

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4. #40010B - Immunizations Clinic Redesign

\$349,051

We are redesigning our Communicable Disease Services program area over the next year. This will align our practices with changes in service delivery as a result of expanded health care coverage-most immunization work now happens within primary care and in pharmacy settings. Additionally, we need to redesign our approach to TB screening in homeless shelter settings in partnership with other community agencies. All of the staffing changes listed above will result in a need to reduce the clinic to 4 days a week. Services will be eliminated for approximately 3,300 children and adults; this includes about 500 children through school outreach immunization clinics, 300 children and adults that would have come into the downtown clinic for immunizations and about 2,500 homeless adults that will not be screened for TB.

These recommendations represent hours of information gathering in collaboration with county staff, department leadership and fellow community members. By prioritizing these programs, the Health Department will be able to improve health outcomes and access to services in communities with the highest need.

While we are not responding to a specific program offer for Corrections Health, we must reiterate the need for continued investment in the health workforce of our jails. In order to provide a safer, more trauma informed environment for all, we must find ways to create supportive conditions for staff. We believe that by improving efforts to attract and retain qualified staff, we can move forward in enhancing the coordination of services for individuals in the County's jails.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to acknowledge Health Department leadership for their partnership in developing these recommendations. We're especially thankful for Vanetta Abdellatif and Wendy Lear. As Health Department co-directors, they each brought unique expertise and perspective that was critical in our decision making.

This year, the CBAC also gained four new members: Deme Shor, Alejandrina Felipe, Maria Klimenko, and Dr Baher Butti. These new members quickly fit in to our existing committee, and we're appreciative for their wealth of knowledge and commitment to our community.

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