



Office of Community Involvement



Health Department CBAC

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

FROM: Health Department Community Budget Advisory Committee CBAC

DATE: 04/16/2021

SUBJECT: Health Department CBAC Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains the recommendations for the Health Department's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) out-of-target offers. The committee considered all out-of-target program offers based on the CBAC's Guiding Principles.

CBAC Guiding Principles:

The previous Health Department CBAC formed a Values Statement. This Values statement guided committee members through our conversations.

1. We are transformative leaders
2. We offer expert knowledge
3. We uphold racial justice
4. We operate with dignity and respect
5. We believe in inter-cultural intelligence
6. We hold ethics at the core

These Guiding Principles gave us the framework as we considered recommendations. We prioritize five key offers, with the last two offers being ranked in the fourth position by centering our recommendations on racial and health equity.

PROCESS

The Health Department CBAC comprises entirely new committee members. Our initial meeting was in October 2020. With the quick onboarding of seven members, the Health Department CBAC recognized the learning curve did not coincide with the pending offer letter deadline, thus additional committee time was apparent. Again, with the time constraints, the division directors were not invited to present before the CBAC. However, starting in May, the directors will be

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invited to present their program offers to the CBAC. Directors will be asked to provide an overview of programs and discuss challenges and successes.

Despite the limited number of meetings before budget reviews started, the CBAC was introduced to several persons from the department.

- Maria Lisa Johnson, Organizational Development Director
- Ebony Clarke, Director, Multnomah County Health Department
- Sky Wilson, Equity and Inclusion Manager, Multnomah County Health Department

Hearing from these persons informed the committee on current programs and decisions behind prioritization. It also gave insight on budget development including preliminary policy and program decisions. Background on the proposed plan for overview Workforce Equity Strategic Plan (WESP) and equity lens was given.

Once the out-of-target offers became available, the CBAC committee members ranked each offer on a 1-10 scale, assigning one rank per offer, with 1 being a top priority and 10 being the lowest priority. An average of the rankings was calculated to determine prioritization. Three meetings were necessary to properly consider the rankings of the out-of-target offers. Through these discussions, CBAC committee members participated in a discussion on rankings and shared their decision-making process on their final selection. Discussion topics included how the program offers would interact with the community, how it aligned with the values statement mission (e.g., equity/inclusion), how it served families and children - noting children represent our future. A priority to help families achieve wholeness, eliminating health disparities, and prioritizing direct service over management.

EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

COVID-19 has not only impacted the health of our community but the health of budgets that support ongoing preventative and healthcare service delivery in Multnomah County. With the 2% budget cuts, ensuring critical services and programs were kept as whole as possible was essential and this was recognized by the County as a priority, thus the Health Department was held whole.

BUDGET FEEDBACK

The CBAC recommends the department continue to use equity as a framework when decisions are being made regarding budget prioritization.

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PROGRAM OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS

Our specific recommendations are as follows, in priority order:

- 40070B Mental Health Crisis Assessment & Treatment Center (CATC) Restoration
- 40085C Adult Addictions Treatment Continuum: Culturally Specific, Justice Involved Addictions Benefit Coordinator
- 40080B Community-Based MH Services for Children and Families- Culturally Specific Clients
- 40085D Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Transition
- 40050E Corrections Health Multnomah County Detention Center (MCDC) - Restoration

1. 40070B Mental Health Crisis Assessment & Treatment Center (CATC) Restoration
\$250,295

With an average Health CBAC priority ranking of 1.33, funding is requested for the restoration of the existing operating program 40070B Mental Health Crisis Assessment & Treatment Center (CATC) to keep the current service capacity whole. Community members accessing CATC's are often at the most vulnerable point in their lives and benefit from provided crisis and stabilization services. As Portland is recovering from pandemic-related housing shortages and high utilization of emergency departments, all non-ED mental health facilities should operate at full capacity.

2. 40085C Adult Addictions Treatment Continuum: Culturally Specific, Justice Involved Addictions Benefit Coordinator
\$186,000

With an average Health CBAC priority ranking of 2.83, the CBAC recognized the continuity of care starting with providers and support staff who are culturally competent and bilingual should be a priority. This position would collaborate with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) to receive referrals from individuals that are both justice-involved and facing addiction challenges. It will offer culturally specific support to the African American/Black community. The services provided a continuum of treatment and recovery for communities of color, people living with HIV, LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and children whose parents are in residential treatment.

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3. 40080B Community-Based MH Services for Children and Families - Culturally Specific Clients
\$160,000

With an average Health CBAC priority ranking of 3.67, the CBAC felt the impact of this project would be most beneficial for our county. In 2020, there were 55 homicides in Portland alone. By October 2020 nearly 173 people were shot by gunfire and there have been over 595 shootings. This is nearly twice as much as the same period last year. Almost half of those most impacted identify as African American, even though the overall population of the Portland area is eight percent African American.

Having an African American Gang Impacted Families Mental Health Consultant (MHC) as part of the program would bridge clients who may have barriers to accessing behavioral health services. Addressing this service gap by centering African Americans impacted by violence would improve mental health outcomes.

4. 40085D Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Transition
\$252,000

With an average Health CBAC priority ranking of 4.67, one-time funding is requested for the smooth transfer of the Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) program from Central City Concern to Multnomah County.

This offer is consistent with the Health CBAC's priorities to support community members most at risk of being harmed by police violence and experiencing the trauma of incarceration. It is specifically designed to address the needs of Black community members as well as those experiencing unstable housing and/or unsafe substance use.

4. 40050E Corrections Health Multnomah County Detention Center (MCDC) - Restoration
\$1,210,684

With an average Health CBAC priority ranking of 4.67, this program offer was tied with the previous prioritized out-of-target offer. To provide funding for Corrections Health to provide essential services to the population if they return to pre-pandemic levels.

The committee feels that this offer aligns with two of the department's long-term priorities highlighted in the transmittal letter: to rectify race-based inequities and redirect resources to respond to changes in jail census. Given

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that the cost of providing care has historically exceeded the budget for a jail population disproportionately made up of BIPOC communities¹, we urge restoration of this existing program serving a population with no other options for care. If short-term measures have reduced the jail census totals² if pre-pandemic levels are not permanent, the committee feels it is important to have the staffing resources in place to provide sufficient care for essential clinical services should the population return to pre-pandemic levels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Health Department CBAC would like to acknowledge the challenges our community, our city, our state, and our world has experienced in the last year. Despite the global pandemic, we recognize the department has been responsive and nimble and has continued to offer essential services to our community. In addition, the support from Wendy Lear and Michael Eaves has been immeasurable. The committee is grateful for the thoughtfulness and support they have provided. We look forward to continuing our commitment to the CBAC's Guiding Principles and we are excited to recruit for the empty committee position to ensure the sustainability of the committee by having a diversification of perspectives.

ADDENDUM

None

¹ pg. 11, <https://multco.us/file/84525/download>

² <https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/multnomah-countys-adult-jail-population-has-dropped-about-30-percent-due-to-fewer-arrests-early-releases.html>