

**County of Orange
Health Care Agency**

**Behavioral Health Services
Mental Health Services Act**

Technological Needs Project Proposal

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Background

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding for services and resources that promote wellness, recovery, and resiliency for adults and older adults with severe mental illness and for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their family members. A portion of the MHSA funds have been specifically set aside for Technological Needs to promote the efficient implementation of the MHSA. Funds may be used to support the development of a technological infrastructure for the mental health system to facilitate the highest quality, cost-effective services and supports for clients and their families.

The long-term goal of the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) is to develop an Integrated Information Systems Infrastructure where all counties can securely access and exchange information. This infrastructure will provide the local service sites with client demographic information, locations of previous services and critical clinical information for coordination of care purposes. The infrastructure will allow different County systems to share information across a secure network environment both inside and outside their respective counties. Counties and their contract medical and mental health providers, hospital emergency departments, laboratories, pharmacies, clients and their families could all securely access and exchange information through the infrastructure. The foundation for an Integrated Information Systems Infrastructure is the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, which is a secure, real-time, point-of-care, client-centric, information resource for service providers.

Project Proposal

The County of Orange Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is proposing to implement a fully integrated EHR system that supports the goals of the MHSA to promote wellness, recovery and resiliency. We currently have an application that already provides Registration, Scheduling, and Billing functionalities. These are all individual elements of an integrated EHR system, however what is missing are the clinical documentation and medication management components, document imaging, and the capacity to interface labs and prescriptions with non-County entities.

Our approach in executing this project includes a two-phased scenario – the first phase is the build-out of the technology infrastructure to provide us with the necessary platform on which to develop the functionality needed. Upon the completion of this first phase, the Health Care Agency (HCA) will proceed with the second phase. Phase two will further enhance the existing EHR system by adding the core clinical documentation management system with clinical decision support; medication and prescription management; document imaging (which includes such functionality as eSignature pads and the ability to scan documents); disaster recovery; compliance auditing, monitoring and reporting; and the ability to include contract providers either by interfacing with their respective systems or by allowing them access to the County system.

The current project proposal includes the build-out of our technology infrastructure. This build-out includes an upgrade of the Cerner Millennium enterprise application to the most

current release, acquisition of new Hewlett-Packard servers, and an upgrade to the Oracle 10g database software. As part of this project, HCA will also:

- Acquire additional storage systems and other related hardware and network equipment;
- Acquire current mainstream middleware and support applications to better utilize and manage the system; and
- Provide advanced technical training on the upgraded application and network infrastructure.

Funding

Under the MHSA, the Health Care Agency will receive funding for Capital Facilities and Technological Needs. On August 15, 2008 the DMH approved the County's Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Component Proposal for \$23.3 million dollars, and on July 30, 2008, the County was informed that it would receive an additional allocation of \$8.9 million dollars. The total component funding for Orange County is approximately \$37.2 million to be spent over the next ten years. Of this amount, 20% will be used for Technological Needs and 80% for Capital Facilities. This Technology Project Proposal is for \$3.3 million of the Technology funds. It will be used to acquire and upgrade the systems and software to lay the foundation for the development and implementation of the remaining components of a fully integrated EHR. The balance of the Technological Needs funds will be used for additional technology projects that are currently in the planning and coordination phase.

Project Proposal Requirements

Technological Needs Projects that benefit more than only mental health must include revenues from other funding sources so that the net cost to the MHSA is reflective of the benefit received by mental health clients. The County used a reasonable allocation approach to determine the share of the project's cost related to MHSA. The funding was allocated based on the number of mental health users and load on the system resulting from mental health activities versus the total supported users and programs. These activities include registration of clients, management of scheduling appointments, recording and billing for services provided, interfaces with various State and Federal agencies for related data exchange and production of reports. Using this criteria, it was determined that 74% of the costs associated with the current project can be funded by MHSA.

The County also complies with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5891, addressing County obligations regarding non-supplanting. In alignment with this requirement, the MHSA funds being requested will not be used to maintain HCA's system that was already operational on November 2, 2004, but will be used to fund the necessary infrastructure platform changes needed to increase functionality for mental health services that is consistent with the County's Technological Needs Assessment.

Summary

Developing a fully functioning EHR is the foundation for an Integrated Information Systems Infrastructure. This is the long term goal of the DMH. The current project is to build-out the technology infrastructure to provide HCA with the necessary platform on which to develop

the needed functionality. Upon the completion of this first phase, HCA will proceed with the second phase, which will further enhance the existing system by adding the components needed to establish a fully functioning EHR.