

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care
Edward N. Bonner, Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal
Marshall Hopper, Chief Probation Officer

DATE: October 7, 2014

SUBJECT: 5150 Memorandum of Understanding

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve for a 5-year term the Placer County 5150 Emergency Response Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which coordinates the provision of crisis services and implementation of Welfare & Institutions Code 5150 for residents of Placer County, and authorize the signing parties to enter into amendments to the MOU consistent with the MOU's subject matter.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 1998, representatives from Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies (PLEA), Placer County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Sutter Hospital Corporation, and providers worked together to develop a countywide protocol. The protocol addressed procedures surrounding Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5150, creating, maintaining and implementing consistent and collaborative practices. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a coordinated response to individuals (children, adults, and older adults) who appear to be experiencing a crisis. Crisis situations may include psychiatric, emotional, substance abuse, or serious family problems. Crisis for children or older adults may also be the result of abuse or neglect. Persons who are assessed as being a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled require a thorough assessment and may require medical intervention or involuntary psychiatric treatment.

The highest priority for emergency services is public safety. The next highest priority is for emergency medical treatment. After these conditions have been attended to we can then appropriately provide emergency psychiatric treatment to those in need.

Currently, representatives from the Sheriff's Office and all city law enforcement agencies, HHS, Probation Department, Sutter Hospitals, Sierra Mental Wellness Group (a Placer County contracted provider rendering after-hours crisis intervention services), and Telecare Corporation (a Placer County contracted provider for current Psychiatric Health Facility operations) have worked to revise and extend this MOU for an additional five years, through 2019. Should the MOU require revision prior to 2019, it is agreed that any party to the MOU may submit a written amendment which would be approved or rejected by the group. Representatives from each of these agencies meet at least quarterly (or more often as needed) to discuss relevant topics, review collaborative efforts, plan for on-going future success, and revise the MOU as necessary.

The on-going necessity of such an MOU is evident by the burgeoning crisis needs within Placer County, limited resources, the increasingly overcrowded emergency departments, and the critical need for collaboration of services provided by all involved parties. During the calendar year 2013 there were approximately 2,700 Placer County residents who received crisis services and who were evaluated for potential psychiatric hospitalization. Of those 2,700, approximately 1,350 were admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Crisis situations typically require complex coordination of comprehensive and efficient services between law enforcement, Sutter Hospitals, HHS crisis intervention teams, Placer County Jail, transportation services, and Telecare Corporation.

This MOU is critical in identifying, reviewing and implementing the agreed upon protocols during these high-impact crisis situations for residents of Placer County. The MOU also represents the teamwork and partnership among multiple agencies and departments in coming together and continuing to work together to find the best ways to serve Placer County residents in crisis.

Due to the increasingly complex scope of this 5150 MOU, the involvement of multiple County parties, as well as the length (5 years) of the current revision, the MOU is presented to the Board for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this MOU.

This Memorandum of Understanding is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.