



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)

Capital Facilities
Component Proposal Program Update

Final Approved by Merced County Board of Supervisors

June 20, 2017

Sharon Jones
MHSA Coordinator

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MHSA COUNTY COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

County/City: MERCED COUNTY

- Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan
 Annual Update
 Program Update

Local Mental Health Director	Program Lead
Name: Yvonna Brown, M.S.W.	Name: Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator
Telephone number: (209) 381-6813	Telephone number: (209) 381-6813, Ext. 3611
Email: YBrown@co.merced.ca.us	Email: SJones@co.merced.ca.us
Local Mental Health mailing address: Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services P.O. Box 2087 Merced, CA 95344	

I hereby certify that I am the official responsible for the administration of county/city mental health services in and for said county/city and that the County/City has complied with all pertinent regulations and guidelines, laws and statutes of the Mental Health Services Act in preparing and submitting this Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Annual Update, or Program Update, including stakeholder participation and non-supplantation requirements.

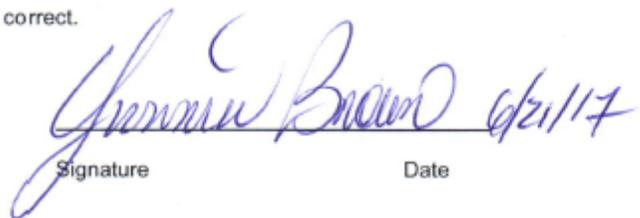
This Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Annual Update or Program Update has been developed with the participation of stakeholders, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5848 and Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations section 3300, Community Planning Process. The draft Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Annual Update or Program Update was circulated to representatives of stakeholder interests and any interested party for 30 days for review and comment and a public hearing was held by the local mental health board. All input has been considered with adjustments made, as appropriate. The annual/program update and expenditure plan, attached hereto, was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on **June 20, 2017**.

Mental Health Services Act funds are and will be used in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 5891 and Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations section 3410, Non-Supplant.

All documents in the attached annual update are true and correct.

Yvonna Brown, M.S.W.

Local Mental Health Director (PRINT)


 Signature _____ Date 6/21/17

CAPITAL FACILITIES PROPOSAL:
Selling of 1137 B Street Property

As counties are allowed to provide updates to new or existing MHSAs components and programs, Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (MCBHR) is updating its Capital Facilities Component Plan. This proposal is for the recommendation to sell the B Street property location which houses BHR Administrative staff.

The Department is seeking feedback on this Capital Facilities Proposal from all community stakeholders and interested parties. Please review the Capital Facilities Proposal description which is available for a 30-day Public Review and Comment period.

The Merced County Capital Facilities Proposal Update will be posted by MCBHR on the Merced County website at www.co.merced.ca.us for a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period, from March 31, 2017 through April 30, 2017. A Public Notice will be issued through a Press Release and a copy of the Plan update will be mailed and/or emailed to all MHSAs stakeholders. In addition, copies will be made available, upon request, to all interested parties at the MCBHR MHSAs Office, currently located at 1137 B Street, Merced, CA 95341. The public can provide input, recommendations, or comments through any of the following methods:

1. Attend the Public Hearing on May 2, 2017, 5:30 p.m. at 1137 B St., Merced, CA 95341
2. Email: Sharon Jones at Sjones@co.merced.ca.us
3. Phone: (209) 381-6800, ext. 3611
4. Write or return Public Comment Form to Sharon Jones via email, hand-delivery or regular mail to: Attention: MHSAs, P.O. Box 2087, Merced, CA 95344

OVERVIEW

“Capital Facilities” means the segment of the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs component under which the County acquires and develops land and/or constructs or renovates building(s) in which Mental Health Services Act administrative activities, services and/or supports are provided. Capital Facilities provides funding to strengthen the County’s mental health system by increasing its infrastructure to promote the implementation and support the continued delivery of the county’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSAs) programs. The Capital Facilities (CF) component supports infrastructure associated with the growth of the public mental health system. CF funding is limited to the purchase and/or rehabilitation of county-owned facilities used for mental health treatment and services and/or administration. The planned use of the Capital Facilities funds should produce long-term impacts with lasting benefits that move the mental health

system toward the goals of wellness, recovery, resiliency, cultural competence, prevention/early intervention, and expansion of opportunities for accessible community-based services for clients and their families which promote reduction in disparities to underserved groups. A "Capital Facility" is a building which is used for the delivery of MHSA services to individuals with mental illness and their families or for administrative offices.

BACKGROUND

The MHSA original Capital Facilities Plan was approved in 2009. A 4,000-plus square foot building on 5 acres of land was purchased to house administrative staff. The cost of the building was \$887,738. Since the purchase of the building, it continues to house administrative staff and is used as a large conference room for multiple training, meetings, and special community events.

In the MHSA 2014 to 2017 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Merced County described the plan to renovate a building for placement of MHSA staff, administrative staff and other program staff. This plan included utilizing the remaining Capital Facilities funds of \$396,771, as well as exercising the option, pursuant to WIC Code Section 5892(b), to use a portion of CSS funds for CFTN projects. The funds transferred would be used to fund the new building renovation project on 13th street in Merced. The Capital Facilities project will remodel the Merced County hospital, which is 84,000 square feet and includes a 2 and 3 story building. Transferred funds were also used for Technological Needs projects related to the electronic health record.

Through a MHSA Program Update, approved in July 2015, Merced County revised the amounts to be transferred from Community Services and Support (CSS) funds to CFTN to fund the new building renovation project and the technological needs project. Merced County has followed the State's calculation process to determine the transferrable amounts available in Fiscal Years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The BHRS Administrative staff that is currently located at the 1137 B Street location will be moved to the new building location when completed.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provided a Community Stakeholder focus group to discuss future plans for the 1137 B Street building due to the future move to the new building location in the city of Merced on 13th Street. As a part of the MHSA Fiscal Year 16/17 Annual Update a special focus group was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to discuss Capital Facilities at Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services 1137 B Street Merced, CA 95341. A

presentation was made to explain the Capital Facilities component and how funds should be used. After the PowerPoint presentation, stakeholders provided input, thoughts and ideas on what should be done to the 1137 B Street building once the new Behavioral Health building is remodeled on 13th Street in Merced. On November 17, 2016 at 10:00 am at the MHSA Ongoing Planning Council meeting there was a discussion regarding the MHSA B street property. The participants were encouraged to give feedback regarding the B Street building. The feedback included recommendations that the property be sold and used for supportive housing, a program model similar to the Village in Long Beach, development of mini housing units, a transitional program, to service the homeless with multiple barriers, a building similar to the Hampshire in Merced. The feedback received included the following stakeholder representative areas:

- Sierra Vista Child and Family
- Golden Valley Health Center
- National Alliance for Mentally Ill
- Behavioral Health Board Chair
- Turning Point
- Public Health
- Veterans Office
- Planada Community Member
- Merced County Office of Education
- Law Enforcement
- Kingsview Patient's Rights
- Merced County Behavioral Health Board
- Planada Community Member United Way
- Merced Rescue Mission
- Housing Developer
- Merced Community Member
- Behavioral Health Director and MCBHRS Staff

The Capital Facilities Component Proposal recommendation is guided by general stakeholder input obtained and representative stakeholder consensus achieved. WIC §5848 states that counties shall demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement.

RECOMMENDATION/SUMMARY

Through the MHSA stakeholder process, consensus was made and it was recommended for Merced County to sell the property located at B Street in Merced. It was explained and discussed to stakeholders that all proceeds from the selling of the property would be placed back into the MHSA Community Services and Support Component for direct services to individuals with severe mental illness.

30-DAY POSTING AND PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 5848 the Capital Facilities Component Program Update was posted for a 30-Day Public Comment and Review Period starting on March 31, 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FURTHER ACTION

The required Public Hearing held on May 2, 2017 by the Merced County Behavioral Health Board. Appendix 4 of this document details the Public Hearing, the Substantive Comments made and the recommendation and action of the Merced County Behavioral Health Board.

The Merced County Behavioral Health Board approved the Capital Facilities Component Program Update and the plan to sell the property located at 1137 B Street, Merced, California, 95341.

The department plans to send the Capital Facilities Component Program Update to the Merced County Board of Supervisors for approval on June 20, 2017. Substantive comments received during the 30-day Public Review and Comment Period or at the Public Hearing are included in this version to be sent to the Board.

Upon approval of the Capital Facilities Component Program Update by the Board of Supervisors, the department will submit the final version to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

Appendix 1: Focus Group, MHSA Stakeholder and Ongoing Planning Council Feedback on 1137 B Street Property in Merced, CA

<p>MHSA Capital Facilities-Property located at 1137 B Street, Merced, California-4/27/16 Focus Group</p>	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One recommendation is to provide public private partnership in expansion of facilities to service those in the greatest need. • Community Member felt like this meeting really isn't needed and the property should be sold. However, she understands the planning process that there has to be a meeting in order to make recommendations. She is only opposed to selling the building and land to a housing developer or for commercial use. She feels this land should be used for services since this land has always been a land of service even when it was a church. • Recommendation from Rescue Mission is to sell property. • The interest is to develop services for Rescue Mission with collaboration with Catholic Charities to provide supportive housing, transition services, temporary housing, 24/7 homeless center for men/women/ families and their pets. The idea is to have different agencies come in and provide services for the homeless. • Another recommendation would be to sell the property with conditions that the property be used for social services programs. • One consideration is to perhaps transfer the property to a local non-profit. • Perhaps use it as a resource center for the homeless, since everyone keeps talking about helping the homeless.
<p>MHSA Ongoing Planning Council Monthly Meeting held 11/17/16 at 1137 B Street, Merced, California</p>	<p>Comments: Yvonna Brown, BHRS Director, discussed the future of the 1137 'B' Street building and the various future outcomes. Yvonna reminded the council that at the previous meeting it was discussed that 1137 'B' Street may become a site for supportive housing for the Homeless population with wrap-around services by way of collaborative efforts between the City of Merced, BHRC and various other entities. By having The City and the community partners join together the chance of receiving the grant No Place Like Home increases. Yvonna stated that she will keep the council updated with the future of the building as it moves forward to the possibly of being sold. Iris informed the council that all are able to provide input in regards to the future of the building. Mary Hofmann of NAMI asked how feasible would it be to replicate The Village model in this location. Vong Chang of Turning Point gave a brief overview of The Village model for the council. Ge Thao of Merced Lao Family suggested that a presentation be given to the council so all may become familiar with it. Ruby Awesome, Staff Service Analyst for BHRS suggested the building of mini-housing units, offering new skill sets and having an agricultural area designated for farming to teach the Homeless population how to grow vegetation. Olivia Gomez, Planada Elementary school, suggested a transitional program that would arrange for Homeless to go into their own home. Olivia spoke of Planada's Self-Help home model; this model has the family build their own home with the guidance of a contractor. Vong Chang of Turning Point informed the council that Modesto currently has a piece of land that has been allocated to house individuals who are homeless that have various barriers related to seeking shelter which include pets, a significant other, etc. He also stated that in Fresno sheds are being purchased to be place on a specific location to provide shelter to homeless individuals who are unable to access emergency shelter; these individuals will also be assisted in finding permanent housing. Vong stated that the intent is to get the Homeless off the street into a centralized location. An intake is initiated on how they can be plugged into the various programs with the ultimately goal of being permanently housed. Vong informed the council that individuals are chronically homeless due to having a pet. The Fresno location is a neutral ground that has less barriers for those seeking shelter. Iris N. Mojica de Tatum reported that she would love to see a building in this location like the Hampshire of Merced. She would like to see bedrooms, a centralized cafeteria and game rooms for the Homeless. She would also like to see wrap-around services within the building and a portion of the</p>

land be used for agriculture. She stated that it would be nice to give these individuals purpose by offering various stations such as grow crops, feed animals, bake in the kitchen, etc. Iris suggested having a shower rooms and transportation available for those who would like to bathe but not occupy a room within the structure. She would also like to see some basic health services available to them such as blood pressure checks, diabetes check, etc. Iris also suggested a larger van that could be equipped with showers and mobile health staff. Alice Liang, BHRC Assistant Director, would like to see designated living areas for families, substance abuse services, peer support programs and skills building. Kimberly Sanchez of Veterans Services gave a brief overview of a community in Sonoma County that assists homeless veterans. She shared that this community had an agricultural lot, single units with own thermostats, community area for game nights and a piano for those who played. This community also brought in individuals who taught different instruments, individuals who taught art, it had job-skills placement and has wrap-around services. Pets were allowed. Kimberly would like to see a program similar to this in this location. Mary Hofmann of NAMI asked that assurance is given to the community that the new development does not become a magnetic for the state's homeless population. This group discussed the various misconceptions related to the new building project and how the community thought it was being reconstructed to build a regional homeless center for five counties. Yvonna Brown informed the council that there will be an extensive screening process for the homeless who request assistance at the future 'B' Street supportive housing program. Yvonna reminded the council that the supportive housing project is in the active discussion phase. Susan Coston of MCOE stated that she would like to see a focus on families and children's needs; specifically autism. She would like to see the development of the future supportive housing structure consider designated areas for school buses to pick up and drop off children. She also stated that she would like to see linkages to educational and vocational opportunities. Kristin McHaney would like to see homeless teens assisted. Cindy Mattox would like to see outreach done in Los Banos and Livingston. David Antes of Merced Adult School would like to see this project well organized. He would also like to see the agencies who are responsible for this level of care within the supportive housing. He also spoke of the Shelter Plus Care program that issues five-year housing vouchers to homeless individuals to receive supportive housing. He also stated that it is important to identify those who want to improve themselves and get them involved with MCOE/ROP Merced Adult School. Cheryl Assante of Public Health stated that there needs to be an assessment to identify barriers as to why individuals are homeless. She stressed that all would need to collaborate and Public Health would have a big part of the collaboration. Chief Ruben Chavez of Livingston Police Department spoke of the homeless population and how he would like to see all the segments within the homeless population needs met. He would like to see services also provided for the individuals who prefer to "live-off the radar" and a place for them to address their hygiene needs. He also suggested having Merced and Atwater Police Department at the table because they have a large homeless population. Alice Liang also shared with the group that she has a history of working with the forensic population and she has heard inmates openly state that they have committed crimes in order to obtain food and shelter. She would like to see a collaborative diversion program set in place with law enforcement to decrease criminal records for the homeless. Ge Thao suggested that a presentation be given to this council in order to receive more information about the local homeless population. Vong Chang suggested that all who are interested in learning about Merced County's homeless population dilemmas to participate in the Continuum of Care, which is a centralized resource that works with all the various agencies who work with the homeless population. He also encouraged all the visit the Continuum of Care website for dates and information.

Appendix 2: 30-Day Public Comment Form

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (MCBHRS)

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

FY 2016-2017 Capital Facilities Component Proposal Update

30 Day Review Period:

March 31, 2017 to April 30, 2017

Personal Information	
Name:	
Phone Number:	
Agency/Organization:	
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	
My Role in the Mental Health Community (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Client/Consumer	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Provider
<input type="checkbox"/> MHSA Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health/Behavioral Health Service Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> County Employee Department:	
What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Capital Facilities Component Proposal Update?	
If you have concerns about the MHSA Capital Facilities Component Proposal Update, please explain.	
Please return completed forms to:	
Mailing Address:	Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Attn: Mental Health Services Act P.O. Box 2087, Merced, CA 95344
Physical Address:	Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Attn: Mental Health Services Act 1137 B Street, Merced, CA 95341
Email Submittal:	Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator at sjones@co.merced.ca.us
<p>To request a copy of the Capital Facilities Component Proposal Update, please contact: MHSA Coordinator at (209) 381-6800 Ext. 3611 or sjones@co.merced.ca.us</p>	

Appendix 3: 30-Day Public Review Substantive Comments

1. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
 - Janice Ramirez, 601 E. 19th Street, Phone: (209) 349-2331
 - Role in the community: Other
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “NOTHING!!”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “I don’t want this coming in my neighborhood or Merced. We already have enough homeless of our own!! This should not be considered especially within blocks of a school.”
2. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
 - Richard Ramirez, 601 E. 19th Street, Phone: (209) 349-2091
 - Role in the community: Other
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “NONE!!”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “We have enough homeless, it’s time to clean up our town not bring more in!! Take it to your side of town. Have you not see the homeless on this side of town & there destruction!”
3. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
 - Charles Lambert, 1001 East 21st Street, Phone: (209) 769-1961
 - Role in the community:
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “NONE”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “Using tax dollars to bring more homeless people to Merced is a horrible idea.”
4. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
 - Jewelene Rezendes, 1001 East 21st Street, Phone: (209) 631-1788
 - Role in the community: Other: RN, Community Member
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?

- “N/A”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “We live in the area and have already seen a rise in crime and vagrancy-plan should not implemented until a plan for residents kicked out of housing facility can be developed to avoid permanent homeless residents.”
5. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
- Jaime Mercado, 391 E. Main Street, Merced, CA 95340, Phone: (209) 201-8022, Email: nartules@yahoo.com
 - Role in the community: Other: Home owner in area
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “None”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “Crime, failed recovery rate”
6. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
- Peggy Joos, 1803 Cedar Ave, Merced, Ca 95340 Phone: (209) 726-9133, Email: atsistsil@aol.com
 - Role in the community: Other: Home owner
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “None”
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “they will be in our neighborhood”
7. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
- Cheryl A. Deed, 1351 W. 19th Street, Merced, 95340 Phone: (209) 626-9400
 - Role in the community: Other: Impacted home owner
 - What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 -
 - If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “I am opposed to the selling of the “B St” property for the purpose of building transitional housing. I am already experiencing problem in my neighborhood.”
8. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:
- Phillip Ward, 1785 Orchard Lane, Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 769-3193

- Role in the community: Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice
- What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “None”
- If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “Not wanted in neighborhood”

9. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:

- Rosine Mercado, 391 E. Main St, Merced, CA 95340, Phone: (209) 201-8022
- Role in the community: Home owner in area
- What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “None”
- If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “I don’t want more homeless people in my neighborhood.”

10. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:

- Thomas Hoopes, 1806 Orchard Lane, Merced, CA, Phone: (209) 722-7365, Email: tommyhoopes@yahoo.com
- Role in the community:
- What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
 - “None-no control over the homeless. How about the Belcher Facility or by the lake? You will have to buy the land anyway”
- If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “Do not want more people in the neighborhood looking over my fence and setting on my porch at 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 am and waking us up – also-trash-”

11. Public Comment Form received on 05/02/17 from:

- Carla Hoopes, 1806 Orchard Lane, Merced, CA, Phone: (209) 722-7365, Email: carlahoopes@att.net
- Role in the community: Homeowner Taxpayer
- What do you see as the strengths of the MHSA Plan?
- If you have concerns about the MHSA Plan, please explain.
 - “I oppose selling this property for use as a homeless services unit”

Appendix 4: Stakeholders Public Hearing Meeting Agenda from May 2, 2017

	<p style="text-align: center;">Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting Notice</p> <p>DATE: May 2, 2017 TIME: 3:30 – 5:00 pm LOCATION: Merced County Behavioral Health Dept. 1137 B Street Merced, CA 95341</p>	
<p>Mission Statement: <i>The mission of the Merced County Behavioral Health Board is to ensure that the Agency provides integrated, culturally responsive mental health, substance use disorder and community-based services that promote wellness and recovery.</i></p>		
<h3>Agenda</h3>		
1. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call	<i>All</i>	
2. Mission Statement (1 minute)	<i>Board Member</i>	
3. Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2017 (1 minute)	(Board Action)	
4. Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda. Please state your name and address for the record. Action will not be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. If it requires action, it will be referred to staff and/or it will be placed on a future agenda. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please limit comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes. To comment on an item which is on the agenda, please wait until the item is read for consideration; please limit comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes. (15 minutes total)	<i>Public Only</i>	
5. Grievance Process (10 minutes)	<i>Robert Porta</i>	
6. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Report (15 minutes) a. Youth-to-Youth Overview b. Overview of Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Waiver	<i>Tabatha Haywood</i>	
7. Nominating Committee – FY 17/18 Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary	<i>Mary E. & Kim</i>	
8. Chair's Report (10 minutes) a. Annual Report Format	<i>Iris Mojica de Tatum</i>	
9. Board's Roles & Responsibilities	<i>Sally, Kim, Mary E.</i>	
10. Supervisor's Report (5 minutes)	<i>Supervisor Lor</i>	
11. Director's Report (10 minutes) a. B Street Update / Next Steps b. Building Project Update	<i>Yvonnia Brown</i>	
12. Reports / Updates (2 minutes each) a. Executive Committee b. QIC	<i>Iris Mojica de Tatum Mary Ellis</i>	

13. Announcements	All
14. 5:30 p.m. – OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: MHSA Capital Facilities Proposal a. Close Public Hearing (1) Approve MHSA Capital Facilities Proposal	<i>(Board Action)</i>
15. Adjournment	

Appendix 5: Approved Minutes from the 05/02/17 Public Hearing Meeting including Substantive Comments

Minute items 1 through 13 pertain to the regular Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting held prior to the Public Hearing on 05/02/17 and are not included. The Minutes from the 05/02/17 Public Hearing were approved as final at the 06/06/17 Behavioral Health Board Meeting. The Approved Minutes for the Public Hearing start below at item 14.

Merced County Behavioral Health Board and Public Hearing
May 2, 2017
4:00 pm – 6:30 pm
1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present: Iris Mojica de Tatum, Chair; Paula Mason, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann; Kim Carter; Mary Ellis; Vince Ramos; Angelo Perez; Supervisor Lloyd Pareira; Micki Archuleta

Absent: Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair

Others Present: Yvonna Brown; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Liz Freitas; Robert Porta; Jennifer Jones; Tabatha Haywood; Sharon Mendonca; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Agenda Item 14. 5:30 p.m. – OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:
MHPA Capital Facilities Proposal
a. Close Public Hearing
(1) Approve MHPA Capital Facilities Proposal

Discussion/Conclusion: The Public Hearing opened at 5:30 pm. Sharon Jones gave her PowerPoint presentation on the Capital Facilities Proposal to everyone present. The floor was then opened for public comment.

Public – she is a homeowner in the area. In the original Capital Services report that she received, there was only a mention of the reuse of this property as a multi-unit, homeless with multiple barriers apartment complex. She is already impacted by the homeless services that are in this area. Her neighborhood is unsafe for her children and grandchildren to be in outside of her fenced-in yard. She has people coming over her fence; she finds hypodermic needles in her yard, used condoms, alcohol bottles, dirty clothing and trash. People are going through her trash. She feels that if this property is built into a homeless facility, that it will attract more homeless to this area. She opposes the use of this property, in this area, for that use. She wants to feel safe in her home and she does not already. She has multiple neighbors who feel the same.

Vince – he understood that this was not going to be a homeless apartments; he thought it was just services for clients.

Sharon J. – she stated the proposal that is being put to this Board is for the selling of the property. After the property is sold, the Department would have nothing to do with that.

Iris – she stated this property was bought with MHSA dollars and staff located in this building would be going to the new building. The money from the sale of this building will go back to MHSA/Community Services and Supports (CSS). When property is to be sold, it then goes on the market. This Board does not know who will purchase the property.

Public – she has gone to the Homeless Shelter and attended a Community Outreach meeting prior to this meeting at the Homeless Shelter. She keeps hearing that the City is planning on building a homeless unit on this property. It is not out there a whole lot publicly, nobody she has talked to seems to know about it, but in the document she found, there is only an “A” listed for the reuse of this land. There is no “B”, “C”, “D”, “E” or “F”.

Paula – unfortunately, there are various real estate laws that prohibit from discriminating who you sell your property to. The County cannot discriminate when the property is sold. It is not that this Board is not hearing what the public says. The Board does realize how upsetting this is.

Yvonnia – (regarding document being discussed) this was part of the MHSA Plan/posting – it was giving recommendations based on all the focus groups that took place. It was just a recommendation/community input from the key informants.

Vince – he asked what exactly is this Board voting on today.

Sharon J. – the proposed plan is to sell the property.

Yvonnia – this is just a preliminary process for the MHSA planning process. Any property has to go through this process. This is just a recommendation to sell the property. The County has no control over who will buy the property or what they do with it. The Board today is deciding if they support the recommendations to sell this property and that any money from the sale of the property goes back to the CSS funding. All Sharon did was summarize all the stakeholder’s input; this is what the community wanted based on the input from all the different forums since June of last year.

Iris – the community planning process under Prop. 63 requires that you be transparent so all the community input has to be listed, has to be posted, so that everyone knows what the recommendations are. Ultimately, all the recommendations were taken in and posted; then it was decided that they would sell the property.

Public – she asked if this is posted on a County website because she had to have help to find this document.

Sharon J. – it is posted under the MHSA tab on the County website. It also goes out through the County communications person, Mike North.

Public – it was not very well publicized. She did speak with Mr. North about lack of public knowledge about any of the planning process or meetings.

Sharon J. – as the MHSA Coordinator, any topic under the jurisdiction of MHSA is discussed; the third Thursday of each month they have a meeting from 9:00-10:30 to discuss anything that is funded by MHSA.

Public – she now understands this. She believes her fight will be with the purchaser of the property.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Archuleta / Mason) to approve the MHSA Capital Facilities Proposal to sell the B Street property.