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## DRAFT

# Sonoma County Local Mental Health, Addiction and Homeless Services Measure Expenditure Plan

## Introduction

Sonoma County Behavioral Health Services' mission is to promote recovery and wellness to Sonoma County residents through mental health and substance use disorder services across the service spectrum, from prevention, early intervention and treatment, to aftercare and recovery. These services are provided directly or through partnerships with community based agencies.

Suicide and mental health conditions have become a growing epidemic across the country and in Sonoma County. The current coronavirus pandemic has added additional strain, negatively impacting mental health and creating new barriers for those seeking treatment. Many in Sonoma County are experiencing homelessness or are still healing from the trauma caused by wildfires. 60% of households are impacted by a mental health condition or opioid use and drug addiction. The lack of necessary mental health resources and substance abuse services has overwhelmed law enforcement and first responders who are left to handle mental health and substance abuse emergencies.

At the same time that more and more residents need treatment, budget shortfalls have forced drastic reductions to services. Lack of Federal and State funding has resulted in cuts to essential programs, such as early intervention programs serving children at schools and reductions in the number of beds available at facilities to serve those in a crisis. Additional funding is needed to ensure that those who need it most—children, veterans, seniors, those experiencing homelessness and people facing trauma or drug addiction—have access to the essential care they need.

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services and Sonoma County Community Development Commission have come together to put forth a measure to provide needed additional resources for Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Local Mental Health, Addiction and Homeless Services Measure Expenditure Plan below provides investment into five program categories. Each program category will receive a percentage share of sales tax revenues, currently estimated at a total of \$250 million (in 2020 dollars) over a 10-year period.

The ballot question reads: *To provide local mental health and addiction services and facilities for children, adults, veterans, seniors and those experiencing homelessness including: permanent supportive housing; crisis assessment; emergency psychiatric care; early detection and intervention; suicide prevention; and opioid and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery, shall the County of Sonoma establish a countywide ¼ cent sales tax for ten years , providing approximately \$25 million annually, with annual audits and citizen oversight to ensure funds are properly spent?*

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## Project Descriptions

The Expenditure Plan has five program categories that include specific program areas. The Expenditure Plan calls for a specific percentage of revenue to be allocated to each of the categories and the funding then distributed to the proposed list of program areas.

Cost for the items listed under each expenditure category includes support cost for accounting, planning, project management and audits.

The list below does not reflect priority order. Assumes \$25 million per year.

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Percentage of total</b>
<b>1. Behavioral Health Facilities</b>	<b>22% of total funding</b>
Residential Care Facility (RCF)	RCFs provide housing & services to individuals with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) who need additional social and behavioral health support to live in the community.
Transitional Housing for individuals discharging from crisis services	Transitional Housing is a needed service for individuals who have high levels of mental health needs and do not have a long-term placement agreement.
Psychiatric Health Facility & Operations	There is a need for a local locked psychiatric facility to serve Sonoma County residents. This will ensure individuals access emergency psychiatric services more timely, at a cost savings to the County.
<b>2. Emergency Psychiatric / Crisis Services</b>	<b>44% of total funding</b>
Mobile Support Team (MST) Expansion/ Crisis, Assessment, Prevention, and Education (CAPE)	MST accompanies law enforcement on calls to provide crisis intervention to individuals in psychiatric distress. CAPE provides crisis services to schools in Sonoma County.
Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)	The CSU provides services to individuals in psychiatric crisis, to assist them to stabilize and return to the community or transfer to a psychiatric facility for ongoing treatment.
Residential Crisis Services	Crisis Residential Treatment facilities provide housing & mental health services to individuals who require longer-term services to stabilize & do not require a locked setting.
Inpatient Hospital Services – Adult	County Department of Health Services (DHS), as the Mental Health Plan, is required to provide inpatient psychiatric care to Medi-Cal beneficiaries on involuntary holds or otherwise in need of intensive psychiatric services.
<b>3. Mental Health &amp; Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services</b>	<b>18% of total funding</b>
Mental Health Services at Children’s Shelters	DHS provides on site mental health services to children who have experienced trauma living in the County Children’s Shelter.
Mental Health Services for Children and Youth	Children and youth with mental health needs will receive services for prevention, early intervention and case management.
Services to support Residential Care Facilities, Permanent Supportive Housing, and other Housing	Individuals with mental health and/or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) needs who require in-home and community-based services to live successfully in the community. These services will support individuals provided with permanent supportive housing, which interrupts the cycle of homelessness.
Substance Use Disorder Services Expansion	Expand Sonoma County Drug Medi-Cal Services to provide outpatient and residential treatment services to individuals with substance use disorders.
<b>4. Behavioral Health Homeless / Care Coordination</b>	<b>14% of total funding</b>
Behavioral Health Services for individuals who are homeless	Individuals who are homeless or need mental health and substance use disorder services to successfully transition to housing in the community.

Expenditure Category	Percentage of total
Care Coordination for High Needs Homeless	Care Coordination provides multi-disciplinary case management and other services to enable individuals who have been homeless to live successfully in permanent supportive housing in the community.
<b>5. Transitional &amp; Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	<b>2% of total funding</b>
Supportive Housing Pool	To help secure housing resources to service the homeless populations in the County.

## Oversight and Administration

The implementation of the Measure will be the responsibility of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors may approve by a four-fifths vote authorizing the transfer of transaction and use tax revenue from one category to another category for the specific programs identified in the Expenditure Plan. Funds may also be reallocated within one of the five categories set forth in the Expenditures Plan if a program is needed to be expanded or contracted; and/or came under budget; and/or additional federal or state revenue or grant funding became available; and/or program could not be implemented due to extraordinary circumstances; and/or the implementing agency requested a change to the program.

### Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and Annual Audit

The Board of Supervisors shall establish a citizens' oversight committee to provide transparency and ensure fiscal accountability. The committee shall review the receipt and expenditures of the revenue from the transactions and use tax, including the County's annual independent audit. The committee's review shall be completed in conjunction with the County's budget process. The committee shall produce an annual oral or written report on its review which shall be considered by the Board at a public meeting. Any final written report shall be a public record. The Board shall adopt a resolution regarding the appointment of seven committee members, and any additional duties of the committee. Two of the Committee members will be selected by the Sonoma County City Selection Committee. Additional members shall include a Hospital Representative or first responder (a list of names of potential members submitted by the hospital association, fire chiefs association or law enforcement association), a business community representative (a list of names of potential members submitted by a chamber or business association), and a community member with lived experience of mental health needs or homelessness. Committee Members will serve a three-year term and are eligible to be reappointed by their appointing body.

The funds collected from the transactions and use tax ordinance shall be accounted for and tracked by the County Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector to facilitate citizen oversight.

The amount generated by this revenue source and how it was used shall be included in the annual review of the County's financial operations by an independent certified public accountant, which the committee shall review.

To preserve the integrity and independence of the oversight process, the committee's responsibilities shall not include decision-making on spending priorities, financing plans or tax rate projections or assumptions and the committee shall have no authority to direct, nor shall it direct, County or City staff or officials.

## **Annual Report**

An annual *Sonoma County Local Mental Health, Addiction and Homeless Services Measure Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance Report* shall be prepared by Sonoma County Department of Health Services no later than the last day of the sixth month following the end of each fiscal year. The Report shall be submitted to the Citizens' Oversight Committee for review. The Committee will submit their findings and conclusions to the County Board of Supervisors. The Report will also be made available to the public. The Annual Report shall detail the prior fiscal year's activities related to the retail transactions and use tax. The Report shall include revenues generated by the Transactions and Use Tax, expenditures (in summary form), funds carried over from previous fiscal years, and any remaining funds to be carried over for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. The report may also include any future expenditures/projects that the County is considering and for which they are seeking confirmation of eligibility for use of the proceeds from this measure.

## **California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Costs.**

Payment for the costs of contracting with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration for administration of the tax shall be the responsibility of the County. If the election is successful, the County shall be reimbursed for any fee charged by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration from the proceeds of the tax.

## **Election and Administration Costs**

Payment for the costs of the election shall be the responsibility of the County. If the election is successful, the County shall be reimbursed for the cost of the election from the proceeds of the tax. The annual administrative cost borne by the County's Auditor staff and the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration will be deducted from the annual proceeds from the sales tax before distribution to the Health Department.