

2. Mental Health Workforce Education and Training – Spring Finance Letter

Budget Issue. OSHPD requests that \$2.2 million in unexpended Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) (Proposition 63) Workforce and Education Training (WET) be reappropriated through 2017-18 for WET programs. OSHPD also requests budget bill language to allow for appropriations to be available through 2017-18.

The 2012-13 WET appropriation was \$22.8 million, of which OSHPD has expended \$20.6 million, leaving \$2.2 million in yet unexpended funds which OSHPD is requesting to be reappropriated. According to OSHPD, there are a variety of program-specific reasons for the funds not being fully expended, including: 1) the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program (MHLAP) designates funding for every county, although some counties do not have professionals with qualifying educational loans in certain years; 2) sometimes students drop out of the stipend program; and, 3) OSHPD did not receive a sufficient number of applications to expend all of the Song-Brown funding.

Of the \$2.2 million proposed to be reappropriated, \$632,000 will be allocated to the MHLAP through 2017-18. OSHPD expects the applicant pool to increase as counties recruit providers to meet increased demand (in part associated with federal health care reform implementation). The remaining \$1.5 million will be used to implement the second 5-year WET plan, and the priorities identified in that plan. (The 5-year WET plan was discussed in this subcommittee on March 14, 2013.)

Subcommittee Staff Comment and Recommendation—Approve. It is recommended to approve the following budget bill language:

4140-001-3085--For support of Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, for payment to Item 4140-001-0121, payable from the Mental Health Services Fund.....11,471,000

Provisions:

1. Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 1.80 or any other provision of law, the funds appropriated in this item for the purposes provided for in Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5820, 5821 and 5822, shall continue to be available for expenditure and encumbrance until June 30, 2018.

4140-101-3085--For local assistance, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, for payment to Item 4140-101-0001, payable from the Mental Health Services Fund..... 12,650,000

Provisions:

1. Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 1.80 or any other provision of law, the funds appropriated in this item for the purposes of the workforce, education, and training (WET) programs established pursuant to Sections 5820, 5821, and 5822 of the Welfare and Institutions Code ~~for contracts with accredited physician assistant programs, as well as contracts with hospitals or other health care delivery systems located in California, in support of the Mental Health Services Act that meet the standards of the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission, established pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 128200) of Chapter 4 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code,~~ shall continue to be available for the ~~2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 fiscal years~~ until June 30, 2018.