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DATE OF MEETING: 10/23/13

PREPARED BY: Burt

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 10/09/13

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of UCLA MHSA Cost and Activities Summary Report

ENCLOSURES: • None

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: Department of Health Care Services' Survey of Revenue and Expenditure Reports, MHSOAC Interpretation Paper

ISSUE:

The MHSOAC has received the MHSA Cost and Activities Summary Report from UCLA and at first glance, there appear to be fiscal and programmatic discrepancies and presumably large amounts of MHSA funds at the county level. Preliminarily staff has looked into this and it appears that multiple variables have created these situations. Further analysis is needed in order to provide clarity to the report so that ultimately it is interpreted within the context of the methodological problems and variables.

Background:

As part of its Welfare & Institution Code (WIC) Section 5848 oversight responsibilities, and consistent with the vision of the recently adopted Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Evaluation Master Plan, the MHSOAC entered into an evaluation-focused contract with a group of researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Healthier Children, Youth, and Families on January 31, 2011. The contract requires the researchers to evaluate Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) components.

The first report (Deliverable 1a) to be completed via this contract was submitted to the MHSOAC on June 30, 2011 and included a summary of MHSA component allocations, approved funding, and expenditures for three fiscal years (i.e., 2006/07 through 2008/09). The focus of this initial report was on MHSA funds documented at the statewide and county levels by component and funding category.

The second report (Deliverable 1b) to be completed via this contract, which is the focus of this interpretation paper, was submitted on November 30, 2012 and had a comparable focus to Deliverable 1a, with the exception of the inclusion of an additional year of data—Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10—as well as additional “critical variables consistent with the MHSA and system of care statutes.” As such, Deliverable 1b included an overarching “MHSA Cost and Activities Summary Report” that focused on FY 2006/07 through FY 2009/10 along with additional briefs that provided a more in-depth focus on MHSA components, including one on Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CF/TN).

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Background, Continued:

Upon receipt of the Summary Report and CF/TN Brief, MHSOAC staff identified several potentially problematic issues with the report contents, including the methods through which the results were obtained and the results themselves. In sum, the reports identify an unusually high dollar amount of unexpended funds across many MHSA components that seemingly could not be explained. This discovery prompted MHSOAC staff to work with the UCLA researchers to better understand the findings and consider the methods used to generate the report results.

Although some issues that were identified by MHSOAC staff were rectified in subsequent versions of the initially submitted reports, MHSOAC staff concluded that several challenges impeded the ability to fully rectify the problems that were identified. In addition, MHSOAC staff concluded that some of the identified problems would not be surmountable without a significant undertaking that was beyond the scope of the UCLA contract. Furthermore, some of those issues were identified as being insurmountable using only currently available data.

The methodological problems that were identified within the MHSA Costs and Summary Report and CF/TN Brief fall into three main categories;

- Problems with the data that were used to generate the report results;
- Problems due to changes in the law governing the MHSA and the impact of those changes to the MHSA statutes over the timeframe analyzed; and

Next Steps:

The Financial Oversight Committee will consider the findings of this report.