

**Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services –
City of Santa Cruz Interagency Program Proposal
June 13, 2012**

Background:

For many years, the City of Santa Cruz's Redevelopment Agency and County Mental Health have co-funded a mental health client specialist position to provide homeless outreach and crisis intervention services in the downtown corridor. The current Downtown Outreach Worker (DOW) is a County employee and is supervised by County Mental Health. In addition to the street outreach and linkage to services for the homeless, the position provides crisis intervention to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as providing in person response to SCPD's request for a mental health assessment of an individual downtown.

In recent years, both municipalities have been impacted by budget reductions, and most recently by the elimination of redevelopment in both the City and County. However, due to the continuing importance of the service to the County, the City of Santa Cruz, and the businesses in the downtown corridor, Supervisor Coonerty is requesting a continuation and modest increase of the City's contribution to this program in order for the County to expand service to this population in the City of Santa Cruz and specifically in the Downtown corridor. It is our understanding that the City's proposed contribution for FY 2012-2013 is \$80,000.

Mentally Ill Offender Task Force:

As part of the statewide criminal justice realignment in the fall of 2011, and to address the growing needs to assist the Mentally Ill population in the City of Santa Cruz, Supervisor Neal Coonerty initiated a Task Force to review the service needs of the Mentally Ill population. Representatives of the Criminal Justice system, the SCPD, health care professionals and Health Services Agency representatives met and concluded a renewed focus on treatment for this population would assist in reducing criminal activity and the subsequent impact on jail overcrowding. A proposal to seek funding for the Maintaining Ongoing Stability through Treatment (MOST) team resulted.

DOW/MOST integration proposal:

In an effort to meet both expressed needs of the City of Santa Cruz, County Mental Health is proposing two positions to serve the mentally ill offender and homeless populations in the City and in the downtown corridor. One fulltime position would be dedicated to the MOST team and serve as the SCPD liaison.

The intent is that the current DOW would fill this position. The other three-quarter time staff would be a contract position providing homeless outreach and linkages to existing services in the community, which the DOW previously provided.

The MOST team/SCPD liaison position would provide case management services to 12-14 MOST team clients living in the City of Santa Cruz, with an emphasis on those living downtown. Additionally the position would be the mental health liaison to SCPD, providing rapid response to calls for mental health support and crisis intervention (a current function of the DOW). A standard caseload for this position is normally around 25 cases per full time staff. The reduced caseload for the MOST team/SCPD liaison is designed to be lighter than what a normal caseload would be for this position in order to allow ample time in the field to respond to calls and perform crisis intervention service in the field. The downtown office currently utilized by the Downtown Outreach Worker will be used as an out-station office for the MOST/SCPD liaison to assure availability to SCPD when response is needed in the downtown corridor.

The second DOW position would be converted to a three quarter time contract position with the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center (SCCCC). SCCCC has expertise providing services to the homeless for many years and operates the River Street Shelter. County Mental Health had existing contracts with SCCCC and would coordinate this new service in full partnership with the City. Services to be provided would include homeless outreach, brokerage and linkage to services, support for local businesses, street intervention and crisis services. In addition, this second position downtown would allow for SCPD liaison coverage during vacation and County furlough days when the regular liaison is not available.

Increased Service Capacity:

This proposal increases mental health services to mentally ill offenders in the city of Santa Cruz and homeless individuals in the downtown corridor from one position to two service providers. It increases the responsiveness to SCPD to cover vacations and furloughs of existing staff. The MOST/SCPD liaison and the contracted homeless outreach worker will collaborate to cover the outreach and service needs of this population.

Budget:

	Position Cost			Funding		Funding
	Billing revenue	Total	SC MOST	SC DOW	Co MHSAS	
MOST team case manager	\$67,000	\$45,000	\$112,000	\$50,000		\$17,000
DOW contractor	\$37,000	\$8,000	\$45,000		\$30,000	\$7,000

In addition, the County will be contributing new funding toward this program as follows: a new Deputy Probation Officer dedicated to this population at a cost of \$96,000, a .50 corrections officer at \$50,000, and a .25 psychiatrist at approximately \$62,000.

If successful, we anticipate an ongoing funding request to maintain this increased level of service, however we propose that before next year's budget that the County and City representatives convene to go over data from the expanded MOST program to ensure that it is meeting the needs and expectations of both the City and County.