

MHSA Updates May 2, 2008

1. SPIRIT Property.

The Capital Facilities Subcommittee has discussed the possibility of funds to help SPIRIT purchase the property where they are currently located. SPIRIT gave a presentation to the Mental Health Board. The Mental Health Board made a motion and wrote a letter of support for SPIRIT. SPIRIT also asked the MHSA Steering Committee if there were any objections to help SPIRIT purchase the property. Michael Heggarty wanted to use MHSA funds to purchase the property. The Capital Facility guidelines were not released until mid-March 2008. The guidelines state that Behavioral Health can not give SPIRIT funds to purchase the property. The property would need to be owned by the county. The county will not use county general funds to purchase the property. The Behavioral Health Department would have to purchase the property. Michael Heggarty can not recommend that the Behavioral Health Department purchase the property. Michael Heggarty met with Lily Marie and other SPIRIT staff to let them know we could not purchase the property. The Capital Facilities/Technology Funds are \$745,000. The SPIRIT property is \$800,000. While it would be possible to make a down payment and take out a loan, there is not enough money in the budget to make loan payments and pay for operating expenses. Buying the property would be an investment risk of public funds. It would also neglect the rest of our needs by putting all of the funds into one project.

There are other needs that are also important. If the rules change and there was a way to set aside a portion of the funds and give some of it to SPIRIT Michael Heggarty would recommend that. Other funding needs include expansion for Turning Point, Truckee, and Odyssey House renovations. Technology needs include a new billing system. Our current system is 25 years old. There are only a few counties still using the current system. System support and repair decreases with few counties on the system. Behavioral Health is required to purchase an electronic health record system by 2010.

2. Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63).

Add to the July agenda what role the Mental Health Board has in the MHSA process. There is an MHSA Steering Committee in May.

a) Mental Health Services Subcommittee Reports. Refer to Handouts.