

San Mateo County Health System
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Estimate of Resources Needed to Implement Laura's Law in San Mateo County

April 2015

With so little data from other counties, it is uncertain how many San Mateo County adult residents will be served under Laura's Law. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) estimates that at least 100 adults living with a serious mental illness in San Mateo County could benefit from a Full Service Partnership at this time. As family members and law enforcement become more informed, it is likely that individuals currently not known to BHRS will be identified and additional Full Service Partnership slots needed.

Our best estimate based on the experience of other jurisdictions is that at full implementation, between 20 and 25 San Mateo County adults would be ordered into treatment under Laura's Law. However, to get 20-25 people into court-ordered treatment, we likely will need to offer Full Service Partnership to a minimum of 50 people (and possibly more) who would meet the criteria for an offer of Full Service Partnership services under Laura's Law, most of whom would accept services voluntarily.

Estimated Costs to Implement Laura's Law

- 1) Health/BHRS and Aging and Adult staffing costs. To educate and connect with family members, respond to referrals, perform the required clinical evaluations, participate in the judicial hearings, assign clients to FSPs, track and report client progress, and manage the Laura's Law program, the following additional BHRS and AAS staff would be required:

Position	S and B 9 mos FY 15-16	S and B FY 16-17	Duties
Clinical Services Manager II (1 FTE)	156,834	209,112	Coordinate all program components, supervise staff, liaison to court, families, monitor contracts, assist with evaluation
Staff Psychologist (.5 FTE)	63,198	84,264	Conduct clinical eligibility assessments, testify in court proceedings
Psychiatric Social Worker II (1FTE)	105,950	141,267	Conduct outreach and education, work with providers to identify potential clients, engage clients and provide case management,

			coordinate with Psychiatric Emergency Services
Mental Health Community Worker (1 FTE)	71,307	95,076	A community worker with “lived experience” who will outreach to and engage clients.
Office Assistant II (1 FTE)	73,987	98,649	Provides administrative support to overall operations and supports required Court and State reporting and data for evaluation
AAS Deputy Public Guardian (1 FTE)	90,377	120,502	Coordinate the care of clients identified through the process who meet LPS criteria for conservatorship, including the arrangement of placement and treatment, and manage the income and assets of gravely disabled persons under the jurisdiction of the Public Guardian
Staff Subtotal	561,653	720,570	
Operating costs	69,300	92,400	Annual operating costs for computers, phones, gas (\$7,000 pp/\$42,000,000 annual) and space (\$3 square ft./\$50,400 annual)
Indirect costs	39,750	53,000	Administrative assistance for billing, contracts, payroll/personnel
One Time Start Up Costs	89,500		2 vehicles, 6 computers and 6 workstations
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	\$760,203	\$894,270	

- 2) Contracted FSP services. BHRS contracts with organizations such as Caminar and Telecare to provide FSP services. The FSP services required for Laura’s Law must meet various minimum requirements specified in the law¹ and must include time and resources necessary to report back to the Court as required by Laura’s Law. We will do an RFP for the required services but are estimating the FSP per person annualized cost will be \$30,000 and would include: psychiatric medication management, intensive case management, housing support (when necessary), 24/7 crisis response capability, court reporting, linkage/coordination with primary care, and substance use treatment.

Per the discussion above, we estimate we would need to pay for a minimum of 25 slots in FY 15-16 and 25 additional slots in FY 16-17 (50 total slots by FY 16-17) order to initiate the program costing \$562,500 in the first 9 months of FY 15-16 and \$1,500,000 in FY 16-17, for a total of \$2,625,000 for 50 FSP slots across the two

fiscal years. At the point that 50 slots were insufficient we would return to your Board for guidance.

- 3) Monitoring and Evaluation. BHRS will monitor all individuals who are placed in an FSP and will track all data and outcomes. We already know that FSPs are effective in dramatically reducing homelessness, incarceration, and hospitalization of persons served. The question we want to answer with a more formal evaluation is whether the Laura's Law process engages people who we have not otherwise been able to engage in treatment, whether their outcomes are similar to those enrolled in FSPs through conservatorship, the cost and efficacy of the Laura's Law process, and the results with people who are enrolled in FSPs voluntarily. The evaluation will be contracted to a professional evaluation firm. We estimate the cost to be \$50,000 over the two year budget period.

Total Health System Costs

Including one-time costs of \$89,500 the estimated total annual cost for BHRS to implement Laura's Law is \$1,347,703 for FY 15-16 and \$2,419,270 for FY 16-17. Financial eligibility of any kind is not a criteria for Laura's Law eligibility. Though we would set the program up to bill for treatment to the extent possible, at this point we have no contracts with private insurers (who would argue this is not a covered benefit), and no way to estimate the number of people eligible for Medi-Cal. Accordingly, we have not assumed any revenue.

Outreach and Education

As part of the start-up phase, BHRS staff will do outreach to key stakeholder groups including family members, law enforcement, and service providers. Staff will be educating these groups on the eligibility criteria, referral protocols, court process and the treatment components. Additionally, BHRS will use its ongoing communication channels including its website, blog, newsletter and community meetings to keep people informed.

Timeline

Upon the Board of Supervisors approval of the budget and salary ordinance, we estimate it will take approximately six to eight months before services can begin. Start-up activities include recruiting and hiring staff (four months), developing and releasing a request for proposals (three months), negotiating and receiving Board approval of the contracted services (two months), developing procedures with the Court and other parties (four months), and developing and implementing an education and outreach effort (five months).