



*Dedicated to the Health
Of the Whole Community*

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Section D.3.....Consistency with Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan

The Bella Terra Senior Housing Apartments project is entirely consistent with Santa Clara County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan in the way it was developed (planning process), philosophy, objectives, targeted population, and implementation design.

Planning Process: Santa Clara County's MHSA CSS planning process was extraordinarily inclusive and participatory, incorporating the thoughts, beliefs, concerns, needs and preferences of 10,000 Santa Clara County residents through a year-long process of inreach and outreach. Likewise, Santa Clara County's MHSA Housing Program planning has included thirteen consumer focus groups at self-help and community centers located in geographic areas throughout the county, and a consumer housing program survey that resulted in 562 responses. Input was gathered through meetings with mental health service providers, health care program managers, Call Center staff, adult custody mental health services staff, members of the Mental Health Department's Ethnic and Cultural Community Advisory Committees, participants in the Santa Clara County Refugee and Immigrant Forum, and the County's Mental Health Board. A large stakeholders meeting was attended by 136 individuals who devoted a half-day to expressing their opinions and sharing their experiences concerning supportive housing needs and priorities. The contribution of this diverse group of participants was facilitated by translators for Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Chinese speakers. Through all of these venues, information was gathered concerning housing options, service types and locations, staffing, tenant selection, and the other key housing plan elements.

Philosophy: The philosophy emanating from the inclusive planning process for MHSA supportive housing includes an emphasis on being consumer and family driven, culturally competent, supporting wellness and recovery, promoting self-sufficiency, utilizing graduated levels and flexible mixes of services, respecting privacy and human rights, and meeting the needs of consumers at all the ages and stages of their lifespan. This is entirely consistent with the MHSA CSS Plan, which includes the key elements: "a lifespan approach, community engagement and support, cultural competence throughout, a social ecology focus, an emphasis on connectedness, guided by recovery and resiliency-based models, consumer and family-driven, and based in strong system partnerships."

Objectives: A key objective of Santa Clara County’s MHSA CSS Plan is to “reduce homelessness and increase safe and permanent housing.” Along with supporting this critical element of the CSS Plan, the Santa Clara County MHSA Housing Plan and this housing development also further the achievement of other key CSS objectives, which include a “reduction of subjective suffering from mental illness, increase meaningful use of time and capabilities, increase natural network of supportive relationships, reduction in disparities in service access, and increase in self help and consumer/family involvement.”

Targeted Population: Consistent with the MHSA Housing Program regulations, at this housing site the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department (MHD) will be serving seriously mentally ill, low-income older adults who meet the criteria for MHSA services and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Prevalence data for Santa Clara County, as reported in the County’s MHSA CSS Plan, showed that 21% of the older adults living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level who also have a serious mental illness were unserved and not receiving any kind of treatment in the public mental health system. There were 285 “underserved” older adults, with only two older adults who were “fully served.” According to the CSS Plan, “Older adults were the least likely to receive full services compared to all of the focal populations.” Therefore, while future MHSA-supported housing developments will focus on other age groups throughout the lifespan, it is entirely fitting that this development addresses the serious needs of older adults. Targeting older adults for this project is consistent with the criteria used for selection of initial populations for the first three years of MHSA CSS funding, which included:

- Current inequity in service utilization,
- Prevalence of problems with meeting basic human needs,
- Most closely related to loss of liberty and independence,
- Incurring the greatest societal costs (institutionalization, placement, hospitalization and incarceration),
- Most closely related to individual and community safety, and
- Most often selected as important to consumers, families and other stakeholders.

Implementation Design: The proposed project is consistent with Santa Clara County’s MHSA CSS Senior Full Service Partnerships Work Plan in that it provides, per the CSS Plan: “stable housing and needed mental health supports, including building life skills for recovery and successful community tenure.” It fulfills the CSS Work Plan goal of furnishing “a broad scope of integrated services” that will include “psychiatric, medical, social supports, self-help and family involved.”