



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Human Services Agency

DATE: May 10, 2007

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 22, 2007

SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Beverly Beasley Johnson, J.D., Director, Human Services Agency
Stephen Kaplan, Director Northern Region and Substance Abuse and Shelter Services

SUBJECT: Authorize PC1000 Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Client Fee Increases

Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an increase in fees associated with clients participating in Court Mandated Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) programs in San Mateo County from \$500 to \$770.

VISION ALIGNMENT:

Commitment: Ensure basic health and safety for all.

Goal 8: Help vulnerable people – the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at-risk youth and others – achieve a better quality of life.

Background

Under California Code of Regulations, Penal Code Sections 1000-1000.8 and Section 1211, the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Services Administrator in each County, in consultation with representatives of the Court and the County Probation department, shall establish minimum requirements, criteria, and fees for the successful completion of drug diversion programs. Regulations also state that the maximum client fees for the DEJ Program shall be fixed by the AOD Administrator, subject to the approval of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. The last increase for DEJ fees in San Mateo County was in 1998.

California law requires that DEJ Programs be self-supporting through participant fees. There is currently an identified need in San Mateo County to increase fees due to the rising costs associated with conducting business in San Mateo County. The treatment providers for this program have requested a fee increase to support the costs of doing business in San Mateo County.

In 2006, the Deferred Entry of Judgment Providers of San Mateo County served an estimated 350 court mandated defendants. Without an increase in fees, the level of DEJ

program services in the County may decrease, which will have negative impacts on the client population and residents of the County. The fee increase will allow providers to continue to provide quality services to San Mateo County residents.

Providers have found that those being assigned to PC1000 are further along in the addiction process and need additional services. The DEJ objectives of the program are to comply with court orders, create self-awareness of alcohol and other drug abuse, and prevent future arrests.

Discussion

The current fee ranges from \$0-\$500 for the PC1000 32-hour program. This program lasts twelve weeks and includes one group per week, four individual counseling sessions, three urine drug screens, and assessment and referrals when appropriate. This revision will increase the maximum Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Client Fee from \$500 to \$770. Each client is assessed based on monthly income. Clients who fall below a certain level of income are not denied treatment due to their inability to pay.

The proposed fee increases have been approved by the AOD Administrator, Probation, and the Courts. The increases in program fees will allow the providers to maintain the current level of services that are provided in San Mateo County.

Fiscal Impact

The Deferred Entry of Judgment Program is a non reimbursable program and is run solely on client fees collected by the Providers. The fee increase will not have any cost to the County. The provider pays San Mateo County a 5% monitoring fee.