

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Agenda Report
For the Trustee Meeting Date of February 14, 2012

ITEM # 18

ITEM TITLE:

Grant application for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Campus Mental Health Education and Services

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval of the Peralta Community College District's application to the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Campus Mental Health Education and Services Grant competition.

Item SUMMARY:

The Office of Educational Services is applying to the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) requesting a Campus Mental Health Education and Services grant. The application is a collaborative effort between the student services divisions of each of the four Peralta colleges.

The purpose of this particular BHCS initiative is to develop a comprehensive approach to promoting student mental health and well-being and the reduction of stigmas around students seeking help for mental health issues in the higher education setting. The service grants are intended to assist institutions of higher education in supporting students who are experiencing mental distress and promote a supportive learning environment.

SOURCE OF FUNDS (AND FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT):

The source of the funds is a statewide funding initiative, which is being administered by the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) at the local level. This particular competition, overseen by BHCS, is restricted to Alameda County. Eligible applicants include community colleges and state universities in Alameda County and community-based organizations that work with these institutions of higher education. BHCS expects to award up to three grants for a total amount of \$1,318,055 between 1/1/12 and 6/30/14.

The funds will be allocated in two phases. In Phase I, BHCS will award three grants of up to \$332,183 for a 16-month period (3/1/12-6/30/12). During Phase II, BHCS may choose to award renewal grants of up to \$107,167 for a 1-year period (7/1/13-6/30/14), contingent on the availability of funds and grantee performance.

The Office of Educational Services is requesting the maximum available for Phase I: \$332,183. This amount will be divided between the individual Peralta colleges and the District to cover costs associated meeting the grant priorities.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

This funding initiative was originally developed in response to the tragedy at Virginia Tech. In June 2007, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) voted to approve \$60 million in statewide initiative funds for a Student Mental Health Initiative (SMHI) in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shooting. While such tragic incidents are rare, MHSOAC believes there is an urgent need to take steps to prevent such incidents and strengthen student mental health. The Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) was selected to administer the program at the local level and, in partnership with the City of Berkeley, is accepting applications from Alameda county community colleges, state universities, and community-based organizations that assist with providing

mental health support services for students attending eligible institutions of higher education. As a requirement of the grant, at least 10 percent of the funds must be used serve residents of Berkeley.

The Peralta Community College District (PCCD) is in a unique position to meet this specific requirement as Berkeley is one of the six cities in its service area. Through this grant, PCCD will be able to strengthen mental health support services and reduce the stigma around seeking such services, not only for Berkeley residents attending any of the four Peralta colleges but for all Peralta students in need. The colleges will work to engage and reach multiple populations of at-risk students, including veterans, Transition Age Youth, EOPS students, DOPS students, students aging out of the foster care system, homeless students, ex-offenders, LGBTQ students, immigrants and refugees, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and communities of color dealing with trauma and/or acculturation issues. The grant will enable PCCD to increase its capacity to meet the mental health needs of these diverse constituencies and provide educational and peer support services, helping to fill a gap created by cuts in categorical and general student support services over the last three years.

DELIVERABLES AND SCOPE OF WORK:

If funded, the grant will be used to carry out activities in three required areas, outlined in the RFA:

- 1) Component A--Peer to Peer Support: To include the development of Peer Support Specialists, peer-led support groups, peer advocacy, and peer-hosted events on campus to increase awareness of mental health issues and wellness practices);
- 2) Component B--Social Media Outreach to Reduce Stigma and Discrimination: To include development of a web site to promote student mental health, inform students of upcoming program events, and link students to mental health resources, as well as the development of a related Twitter and Facebook messaging and targeted outreach campaigns to various student constituencies and communities.
- 3) Component C—Mental Health Consultation: To include workshops for faculty, staff, and students on mental health and wellness and promoting awareness of the new peer-to-peer support services available.

PCCD will use grant funds to fund expenses related to carrying out these activities, including a percentage of the time of the District Health Services Director to oversee the project, a full-time Mental Health Expert with experience in peer education and working with diverse student populations (to create peer training curriculum and protocols, recruit and train Peer Support Specialists, and design and implement related workshops), and part-time contractual support related to data collection, evaluation, and website development. Stipends will also be provided for the Peer Support Specialists (all Peralta students), paid for by the grant. The grant will also cover the costs of all related training and workshop materials and supplies. No funds will be required from the District or colleges.

ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE:

This application is for Phase I of the funding cycle, which ends 6/30/13. If the grant is selected for renewal in Phase II, the renewal grant period would end 6/30/14.

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS:

Seek funding for increased mental health services within the District budget or from other outside sources.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This grant opportunity has been thoroughly reviewed by the Vice Presidents of Student Services at all four Peralta colleges, as well as the Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and the District Health Services Director. This team

has determined that the grant, if awarded, would benefit the colleges by augmenting their already restricted mental health counseling services in a programmatically effective and cost-effective manner. Ultimately, Peralta students will benefit by having access to additional resources to support student well-being and success. The team recommends that the Board approve the submission of this application.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THIS ACTION (E.G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY):

YES X NO

COMMENTS:

The primary departments impacted by this grant will be the District health services and the college-level student services divisions. The required social media component will be carried out in communication and coordination with the District’s Information Technology and Marketing departments but will not require any allocation of staff time or resources to implementing the grant.

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THIS ITEM AT THE BOARD MEETING?

Debbie Budd, Ed.D., Vice Chancellor of Educational Services

(*****Board contract approval is subject to negotiation and execution by the Chancellor.)

DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:

Prepared by: Jennifer L. Kennedy
Jennifer Kennedy, Grant Writer

Date: 2-7-2012

DOCUMENT PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY:

Presented and approved by: Debbie Budd Date: 2-7-2012
Dr. Debbie Budd, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Finance review required Finance review *not* required

If Finance review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

If not approved, please give reason: _____

Signature: Ron Gerhard
Ron Gerhard, Vice Chancellor of Finance

Date: 2-8-12

GENERAL COUNSEL (Legality and Format/adherence to Education Codes):

Legal review required Legal review *not* required

If Legal review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

Signature: _____
General Counsel

Date: _____

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE APPROVAL

Approved, and Place on Agenda Not Approved, but Place on Agenda

Signature: Wise E. Allen
Wise E. Allen, Chancellor

Date: 2-7-12