AGENDA ITEM NO.
C1

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: June 18, 2018

Date: May 29, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Amy S. Nilsen, County Administrative Officer AN

Subject: Public Hearing on Proposed County Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Open the public hearing;
2. Receive reports from staff;
3. Receive testimony from public;
4. Continue the hearing to 5:30 p.m.;
5. Receive updated reports from staff (if required);
6. Receive additional testimony from public;
7. Close the public hearing;
8. Deliberate on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 proposed spending plan;
9. Give direction to staff regarding any desired modifications to the proposed budget; and
10. Set June 26 as the date to adopt the budget.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: All County funds

Prepared by Elishia Hayes CAO Approval

REVIEW:
Auditor CD County Counsel _____ Human Resources _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
_____ Consent
_____ Departmental
__X__ Public Hearing
_____ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. F-1_____

Meeting of: 2/6/18_____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT:
SEE ACTION SUMMARY
Upon motion of Supervisor
Seconded by Supervisor
And unanimously carried by those members present,
The Board hereby adopts the recommended action
contained in this report.
SEE ACTION SUMMARY

Dated: _____
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

By: _____

DISCUSSION:

Annually, the County Administrative Office (CAO) presents a proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors. The adoption of an annual budget is one of the most significant policy decisions of the Board. As such, it requires substantial preparation and benefits markedly from public input.

California Government Code Sections 29000 through 30200, known as the County Budget Act, as applied through rules issued by the Office of the State Controller, provides the legal requirements pertaining to the content of the proposed budget, adoption procedures, and dates by which actions must be taken. The CAO, as designated by the Board, is responsible for completing the budget process within the confines of state code.

Locally, the budget process is lengthy and includes the below steps:

- On February 6, 2018, as part of the Mid-Year Budget report, your Board set parameters for the development of the FY 2018-19 budget for General Fund allocations and the budget calendar. The parameters included direction to set departmental allocations from the General Fund to increase by 5 percent based on current year General Fund allocations. This allocation was intended to cover increased costs for departments as well as allow for a balanced budget. In addition, your Board directed staff to accept Additional Requests for General Fund Appropriation (additional funding requests) in the FY 2018-19 budget that demonstrate a potential to generate future savings.

- Community Budget Roadshows were held on February 28 and March 8, 12 and 22, 2018, with the assistance from Access Humboldt and a facilitator, County of Humboldt elected officials, department heads and representatives from various departments. The purpose of the roadshows were to present an overall view of the state of the county and to solicit public input on community priorities. In addition, community members unable to attend the workshops had the opportunity to participate and express their opinions on community priorities online via Open Humboldt. Staff plan to track these priorities through performance measures and report back to your Board and the community on the progress made towards those priorities. Additional information on the Community Budget Roadshow can be found on the county's website at http://humboldtgov.org/1316/Open-Humboldt#peak_democracy.

- Preparation of the proposed budget began on February 22, 2018, when CAO staff presented to departments the parameters for development of their FY 2018-19 budget requests. Departments were asked to submit their requests to the CAO by April 2, 2018. The CAO reviewed the budget and Additional Requests for General Fund Appropriation (funding requests) in April and May, 2018.

- On April 23 and April 30, 2018 departments made presentations to your Board on their core services and budget requests.

- On May 3, 2018, your Board revised the Board's Strategic Framework and these have been integrated into the FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget.

- Presentation of the proposed budget was before your Board on June 5.

- Public hearings on the proposed budget are before your Board today.

- The final budget is anticipated to be adopted on June 26, 2018.

At today's hearings, it is recommended that you accept additional public comment and staff input, and provide any direction you wish staff to pursue prior to the final opportunity for public input and budget adoption, scheduled for June 26.

In addition, your Board requested additional information regarding transitional housing, included with this Board report (Attachment IV) is a Transitional Housing Sober Living fact sheet.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total proposed county budget is $412,417,553. Proposed General Fund expenditures are $165,547,690 including a Contingency Reserve of $3,500,000. The Contingency Reserve represents more than 2 percent of General Fund revenues and is in accordance with the Contingency Reserve policy updated by your Board on February 6, 2018. Per policy, contingencies should be proposed at $3,190,445 (2 percent of $159,522,342).

Today's public hearing supports the Board's Strategic Framework by inviting civic engagement and awareness of available services, as well as managing resources to ensure sustainability of services.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

All county departments and agencies, as well as several community organizations that receive county funding, are affected.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Defer the public hearing. This alternative is not recommended as public hearings require advanced notice, both legally and in order to secure maximum public input. In addition, deferring the public hearing would delay adoption of the final budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

I. Humboldt County FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget (copy on file with the Clerk of the Board and available online at http://www.humboldtgov.org/247/Budget)

II. Additional General Fund Appropriation Requests for FY 2018-19

III. Measure Z Funding Requests

IV. Transitional Housing Sober Living Fact Sheet

Attachment I

Humboldt County FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget (copy on file with the Clerk of the Board and available online at http://www.humboldtgov.org/247/Budget

Attachment II
Additional General Fund Appropriation Requests for FY 2018-19

Master List of Departmental Additional Requests for General Fund Appropriation for FY 2018-19

Fund	Budget #	Department	Priority	Description	Performance Measure		ONE TIME Net County Cost Requested	ON GOING Net County Cost Requested	ONGOING SAVINGS/Year	Detail	Recommended
1100	103	County Administrative Office	1	Funding for 1.0 Accountant/Auditor to provide the CAO with government financial expertise in terms of applying Governmental Accounting Standards Board compliance and best practices, and to assist in the development of internal service charges and the cost allocation plan.	Fiscal Responsibility			$100,833	unknown		$0
				Total for County Administrative Office		**$100,833**					
1100	111	Auditor-Controller	1	Funding for 1.0 Fiscal Assistant and 2.0 Accountant-Auditor I/II positions to allow for increased productivity and effectively manage current work loads.	Fiscal Responsibility			$181,181	Yes	Increased productivity, reduced fines and late fees, less liability of workers comp claims.	$0
1100	111	Auditor-Controller	2	Funding to install new wiring for 26 data drops and 1 voice drop in the Auditor-Controller Office to allow for improved efficiencies in utilizing financial software and reducing hazards from outdated wiring.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$20,000		unknown		$20,000
				Total for Auditor-Controller		**$201,181**					
1100	130	Human Resources	1	Funding for 1.0 HR Project Manager to provide the resources necessary to meet additional needs of the internal and external clients with a focus on employee retention, succession planning, leadership development, employee development, HR systems upgrades and LEAN principles.				$115,300			$90,300
				Total for Human Resources		**$115,300**					
1100	162	Facilities Maintenance	7	Funding to address regulatory requirements to mitigate threats associated with the site contamination from former service station operated at the site of Fourth and J Street in Eureka.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$110,500				$110,500
1100	162	Facilities Maintenance	1	Funding for the maintenance operations of hundreds of offices, three correctional facilities, one mental health treatment facility, five airports, the Veteran's Halls, and every building that the county conducts critical business from.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$100,000				$100,000
1100	162	Facilities Maintenance	6	To fund 1.0 Laborer to provide for landscaping at the Courthouse and other county owned properties including the Veterans Halls to improve the appearance and provide safe access to facilities for the public and staff.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance			$27,150	Yes	Will not need to hire a contractor to perform work	$27,150
				Total for Facilities Maintenance		**$237,650**					
1100	166	Land Use	4	Funding for 1.0 Administrative Assistant to maintain minimal staffing needs and eliminate the use of extra help and inefficient staffing turnovers. In addition, $18,735 is requested to cover increased insurance expenditures associated to a liability claim.	Roads and trails		$18,735	$54,052			$54,052
				Total for Land Use		**$72,787**					
1100	181	Economic Dev & Promo	1	Funding of 2 percent of total transient and occupancy tax for Southern Humboldt Visitor's Bureau to promote tourism and the cannabis industry	Economic Development			$39,134	unknown	Increased sales and tourism taxes	$39,134
1100	181	Economic Development & Promotion	1	Increased funding for the Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commission to allow for participation in film conferences to educate industry leaders on Humboldt County, improved employee retention by increasing benefits and offering competitive wages and an increased marketing budget.	Economic Development			$20,000			$20,000
				Total for Economic Development & Promotion		**$59,134**				**$0**	
1100	199	Contribution to Economic Development	1	Funding for operational costs that exceed available grant revenues.	Economic Development		$65,835				$65,835
1100	199	Contribution to Economic Development	1	Funding for 1.0 FTE Economic Development Director to support business, workforce development.	Economic Development			$148,987	Unknown	Increased sales and tourism taxes	$0
				Total for Economic Development		**$214,822**				**$0**	
1100	199	Contribution to Def Maint	1	To fund deferred maintenance to address dilapidated county facilities.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$250,000				$250,000
1100	199	Contribution to Reserve	1	Additional contribution to General Reserve in FY 2018-19 to build reserves in order to have an appropriate level during times of financial difficulty	Fiscal Responsibility		$500,000				$500,000

Master List of Departmental Additional Requests for General Fund Appropriation for FY 2018-19

Fund	Budget #	Department	Priority	Description	Performance Measure		ONE TIME Net County Cost Requested	ON GOING Net County Cost Requested	ONGOING SAVINGS/Year	Detail	Recommended
1100	199	Contribution to ADA	1	To fund phase II of the Facility Master Plan.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$250,000				$250,000
1100	199	Contribution to ADA	1	Contribution to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trust fund (4491) for expenses associated to ADA projects mandated by the consent decree.	ADA		$1,000,000			Required to comply with the ADA consent decree.	$1,000,000
1100	199	Contribution to PARS	1	Additional contribution to Public Agency Retirement Services to address county's mounting unfunded liability costs.	Fiscal Responsibility		$1,250,000				$1,250,000
				Total for ADA and Reserves		**$3,250,000**					
1100	199	Contribution to Mental Health	1	Funding for DHHS, in collaboration with First 5, will coordinate a response to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) throughout the county to protect vulnerable populations. Funding would provide for early childhood mental health consultation, parenting support, and projects developed by community based organizations that will help build the resilience, independence, diversity, growth, education and success of Humboldt County's youth.	ACEs			$400,000			$400,000
				Total for DHHS		**$400,000**			**$0**		
1100	199	Contributions Other Funds	1	Contribution to Natural Resources to fund operational costs that exceed available grant revenues.			$20,000				$0
				Total for Other Funds		**$20,000**			**$0**		
1100	199	Contributions-Other	1	One-time funding to support local organizations, groups, and/or individual's addressing human trafficking issues.			$21,145		unknown		$0
				Total for Other		**$21,145**			**$0**		
1100	221	Sheriff Operations	1	To purchase two new vehicles for staff to conduct marijuana eradication activities.			$84,000		unknown		$84,000
1100	221	Sheriff Operations	1	One-time funding to for the Abandoned Vehicle Program.			$60,000		unknown		$60,000
				Total for Sheriff		**$144,000**			**$0**		
1100	251	Water Management	3	Funding to actively represent the county interests in major developments occurring on the Klamath, Trinity and Eel Rivers through consultant services and a water law attorney.			$60,750		Yes	Federal grant match	$60,750
				Total for Water Management		**$60,750**					
1100	261	Agricultural Commissioner	1	To purchase a new vehicle to perform local and state inspections and duties related to the cannabis cultivation inspection program.	Ensuring Success of Cannabis Industry		$36,000				$36,000
1100	261	Agricultural Commissioner	2	To fund installation of wireless access points at the Agricultural Center to allow for improved wireless capabilities.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$12,000				$12,000
1100	279	Agricultural Commissioner	1	Funding to make up for lost revenue that previously came from Trinity and Del Norte counties for Commissioner/Sealer services.			$24,838				$0
				Total for Agricultural Commissioner		**$72,838**					
1100	713	Parks & Recreation	2	Funding to remove asbestos and mold from the Parks maintenance shop, causing an occupational health exposure hazard, and structural damage resulting in water leaks and perpetual mold.	Infrastructure Planning/Maintenance		$15,000				$15,000
				Total for Parks & Recreation		**$15,000**				**Recommended One-time**	**$3,814,085**
										Recommended On-going	**$630,636**
					Total Funding Requests		**$4,912,602**				**$4,444,721**

Attachment III
Measure Z Funding Requests

FY 2018-19 Measure Z Requests

Agency and Project	Agency Requested	Primary Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Secondary List Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Board Recommended
2-1-1 Humboldt				
Funding to continue operating as Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)	$ 55,000.00			
Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives, Inc.				
Develop a safe, legal, transitional campground for currently homeless residents as a model for "housing first" that addresses stability needs of homeless while waiting for permanent housing	$ 87,718.00			
AJ's Transitional Living				
Safe/sober house in McKinleyville - for Housing Project Manager to develop fundraising program and supplement facility expenses	$ 100,349.00			
Area 1 Agency on Aging				
Leverage Older Americans Act funding to continue Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program	$ 69,166.00			
Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods	$ -			
To allow for expanded space and capabilities to serve youth grades kindergarten to sixth grade in the Eureka Area.	$ 50,000.00			$ 40,000.00
California State Parks Dept. of Parks and Recreation				
Purchase a Wing Inflatable rescue/patrol boat and trailer for law enforcement patrol/response, search/rescue in lagoons, rivers, coast	$ 20,000.00			
City of Arcata				
Replace/improve lighting on 17th Street walking path to Humboldt State University	$ 35,000.00			
Purchase road grinding equipment for in-house road repairs	$ 350,000.00			
City of Arcata Police Department				
Continued/expanded funding for one School Resource Officer (SRO), two Juvenile Diversion Counselors (JDC) to serve K-12 students, families for Humboldt County's 3rd District and western 5th District	$ 360,107.00	$ 353,367.00		$ 353,367.00
City of Blue Lake				
One half time deputy sheriff.	$ 75,317.00			$ 37,500.00
City of Eureka Police Department				
Continued funding for 2 FTE positions - Police officer and Homeless Services Program Manager to work with DHHS and the MIST Team, implement Focus Strategies' Plan, etc.; funding for Parks-Waterfront Ranger to patrol City's recreational open space areas where majority of homeless-related problems occur; funding for non-sworn civilian Parks-Waterfront Ranger to augment sworn Parks Ranger and ensure consistent EPD presence; funding for DHHS for housing, detox, residential treatment, other services to serve/house high needs homeless population; purchase John Deere Gator off-road vehicle for officers to patrol expanded waterfront trail and other greenbelts	$ 623,815.00	$ 512,840.00		$ 512,840.00
City of Ferndale and City of Rio Dell Police Departments				
New Record Management System (RMS) to allow for integration with other Humboldt County law enforcement agencies	$ 183,439.00			
City of Fortuna Police Department				
Funding for salary, benefits, equipment for Fortuna Police Officer assigned as School Resource Officer for Eel River Valley (High School and Elementary)	$ 174,174.00	$ 136,674.00		$ 136,674.00
Salary & Benefits for Drug Task Force Officer	$ 171,174.00	$ 136,674.00		$ 136,674.00

FY 2018-19 Measure Z Requests

Agency and Project	Agency Requested	Primary Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Secondary List Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Board Recommended
Purchase of 2 Surface Remote Dispatch Positions and accessories for mobile dispatching	$ 13,801.00			
City of Rio Dell Police Department				
Continued funding for part-time clerical support position in City's police department to provide support for law enforcement services, nuisance and code enforcement issues	$ 35,126.00	$ 32,000.00		$ 32,000.00
City of Trinidad				
One full time deputy sheriff position to provide a dedicated peace officer in the Trinidad area seven days a week.	$ 162,685.00			$ 37,500.00
College of the Redwoods				
Sheriff's Deputy/School Resource Officer for safety of students, faculty, staff and improve emergency response times	$ 268,800.00			
Community Help in Living Locally (CHILL)				
Epling Respite Center - a day center for the provision of Human Resources, Services, Healing and the Arts to aid at risk, vulnerable people	$ 12,000.00			
Garberville Sanitary District				
Replace six fire hydrants	$ 108,000.00			
Humboldt County Administrative Office				
Audit of Measure Z expenditures to ensure expenditures were consistent with recipient's application and/or Board allocation	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00		$ -
Humboldt County Adult Protective Services and District Attorney				
Elder and Vulnerable Adult Services Team (EVAST) to address cases of elder and vulnerable adult abuse with comprehensive approach and improved systematic response	$ 148,110.00	$ 106,354.00		$ 106,354.00
Humboldt County Dept. of Health and Human Services (Public Health, Healthy Communities Division)				
Hepatitis C (HCV) Health Services Navigator to provide comprehensive non-medical case management	$ 83,433.00			
Humboldt County Fire-Arson Investigation Unit (HCFAIU)				
Funding for training for more certified fire investigators for timely responses to rural areas, and replace antiquated specialized investigation equipment that would be challenged in court due to age and condition	$ 15,000.00			
Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association				
Purchase equipment to bring firefighters to minimum level safety, three multi-use regional training facilities and upgrades to a current training facility, continuation of support funding for dispatch fees	$ 3,583,769.00	$ 1,930,536.00		$ 1,610,536.00
Humboldt County Library				
Supplemental funding for part-time security guard at Eureka Main Library and funding for installation of side locking gates to protect from thoroughfare/vandalism	$ 25,652.00			$ 21,307.00
Humboldt County Public Defender				
Hire one full-time attorney at Conflict Counsel, increase supplies and services	$ 155,069.00			
Humboldt County Public Works				
Improve county road surfaces, reducing response time for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency services	$ 3,000,000.00	$ 578,550.00	$100,000 + half of unspent funds	$ 847,245.00

FY 2018-19 Measure Z Requests

Agency and Project	Agency Requested	Primary Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Secondary List Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Board Recommended
Identification/removal of non-hazardous/hazardous illegal dumping sites, equipment, dumping fees	$ 50,000.00			
Attend annual Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training to assist ACV airport base firefighters and staff	$ 35,000.00			
Salaries & benefits for Airport Services Workers who provide aircraft rescue/firefighting services during carrier operations	$ 291,000.00			
Transportation Security Administration security services at ACV airport	$ 188,000.00			
To address walkability issues in the cities of Willow Creek, Arcata and Petrolia	$ -			$ 35,000.00
Humboldt County Sheriff				
Two new positions: Sheriff's Sergeant assigned to Drug Task Force (DTF) in lieu of full-time DTF lieutenant, Sheriff's Deputy School Resource Officer for Northern Humboldt School District in McKinleyville	$ 234,998.00	$ 111,812.00		$ 196,812.00
Implementation, repair, replacement of county's ratio infrastructure	$ 600,000.00	$ 24,000.00	Half of unspent funds	$ 24,000.00
Humboldt Recovery Center Incorporated				
90-day substance abuse treatment and 270-day continuing care for 5 people monthly	$ 135,000.00			
Humboldt Senior Resource Center				
Purchase safety equipment and precautionary measures against crime, generators for two buildings to continue services in the event of a disaster	$ 137,601.00			
Hydesville County Water District				
Replacement of 14 Hydesville area fire hydrants and main line feeding hydrants	$ 272,000.00			
K'ima:w Medical Center				
The continuation of ambulance service in the Willow Creek Service area	$ 310,113.00	$ 259,208.00		$ 259,208.00
KMUD Redwood Community Radio				
Emergency services communications system improvements: replace/upgrade generator, electrical upgrades, satellite telephone and service minutes	$ 10,586.00			
Mattole Restoration Council				
Petrolia Pathways Project to promote safe access for pedestrians/cyclists with 5,000 foot pedestrian pathway from residential to public use areas on Mattole Road	$ 120,250.00			
Mid Klamath Watershed Council				
Identify/remediate sites damaged from illegal cannabis cultivation in Orleans area	$ 80,000.00			
Miranda Community Services District				
Remove and replace 8 aging and failing fire hydrants within district	$ 64,000.00			
Mountain Community and Culture				
Willow Creek Pedestrian Safety Project for new crosswalks, painted intersections, lighting, asphalt walking paths, improved parking lot	$ 35,000.00			
North Coast Substance Abuse Council, Inc.				
Funding for residential drug treatment bed nights	$ 75,950.00			
Pay It Forward Humboldt				
Funding for cargo van to efficiently transport emergency supplies	$ 46,318.00			

FY 2018-19 Measure Z Requests

Agency and Project	Agency Requested	Primary Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Secondary List Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations	Board Recommended
Project Inspire, a DreamMaker Project of Ink People, Inc.				
Project Inspire and Unchained programs to improve perceptions of health/health-related behaviors to reduce rates of addiction/addiction-related deaths. Additional work with children in schools through group therapy	$ 125,826.00			
Redway Community Services District				
Replacement of Redway area fire hydrants and mainline extensions	$ 88,122.00			
Southern Trinity Area Rescue				
Volunteer, non-profit organization that would like to transition to having one more paid EMT to help alleviate some of the strain on volunteers.	$ 80,448.00	$ 65,720.00		$ 65,720.00
Yurok Tribe				
Clean up environmentally damaging, abandoned illegal marijuana grows/dumping	$ 90,484.00			

Attachment IV
Transitional Housing Sober Living Fact Sheet

Transitional Housing
Sober Living

What is Transitional Housing?

Transitional housing is a temporary living situation, often designed to get a client ready for more permanent housing. There is no legal definition and no licensing. Participation requirements range widely and can include curfew, work requirements, attending appointments and workshops, and compliance with service plans. Sober living arrangements or "clean and sober" houses are a form of transitional housing. In a clean and sober house residents have a room or shared room in a house where all residents are in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery. There may be an onsite house manager and the level of service supports offered varies. Completing a 30 to 90 day residential treatment program is usually not a prerequisite though many sober living residents do transition from residential treatment.

Housing First and Transitional Housing

Housing First takes the approach that permanent long term housing without requirements for service compliance is the best solution and does not support the idea of transitional housing in general. Structured, supported transitional housing tailored for those in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) aligns with the Housing First approach in that the option is chosen by the client and is not an external requirement. Additionally, many individuals in SUD recovery who are not homeless want or need the additional support sober living can provide.

Probation Department

Eligible probationers may be approved by their probation officers to be placed in transitional housing/sober living. Adult Probation's supportive housing services are funded as appropriate with AB 109 - Realignment or fiscal allocations dedicated to the Probation Department's Drug Court program. As of June 11, 2018, the Probation Department has approved 124 funding requests for sober living placements for a total of $46,249.

Probationers' placements are currently approved for 30-day increments which may be extended on a case-by-case basis. While receiving housing services, probationers are encouraged to become fiscally self-sufficient. The initial placements serve to provide stability while probationers attend SUD supportive services as necessary, seek employment, or pursue long term disability benefits as appropriate.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has funding designated for permanent supportive housing and in limited cases can pay for residential SUD treatment. DHHS does not have funding for transitional housing for those in SUD recovery. Some DHHS clients choose to live in a sober living arrangement and pay for it themselves. Each month an average of 28 General Relief clients choose to use a portion of their $303 monthly vouchers to pay for clean and sober living.

Over →

Transitional Housing/Sober Living

Licensing

The state laws and licensing requirements that govern treatment and care facilities do not include clean and sober houses. The state does not keep any list of registered clean and sober houses or conduct inspections. There are no set standards regarding on site supervision, transportation to or other assistance with medical or other appointments, length of stay, or conduct required to remain in the house. Licensing is required of any facility that offers detox, group or one-on-one therapy, educational workshops on addiction or treatment planning.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why aren't transitional housing facilities or clean and sober houses licensed by the state?

Clean and sober houses are protected under state and federal law as residences of people with disabilities which is one reason no state agency formally regulates sober living homes. Over 20 bills affecting sober living have been introduced in California since 1998 and none have made it into law.

Why aren't transitional housing facilities or clean and sober houses inspected or licensed by the county?

Some counties have developed local certification for facilities that are "county-involved," generally meaning funded by the county. DHHS does not pay for clean and sober housing.

Are clean and sober houses helpful for those in SUD recovery?

Well-run clean and sober houses are an important part of the continuum of care for those in SUD recovery. Since there is no licensing or inspection some houses are poorly run and there may be substance use in the house and little to no support. Good facilities are substance use free, and often have onsite house managers and offer services and supports to the newly sober. Many in early recovery have limited incomes and housing options.

Can DHHS-Mental Health money for SUD be used for sober living? Will things change when Drug Medi-Cal-Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODC) comes?

The limited amount of discretionary SUD funding DHHS has is used for residential SUD treatment. DMC does not pay for sober living. In the future DMC will pay for medically necessary residential SUD treatment in DMC certified facilities. This could free up some funds currently spent by both Probation and DHHS on residential SUD treatment.