

FY 2016-18 Budget Hearings Board Inquiry Form

Board Member	
Carbajal	
Wolf	X
Farr	
Adam	
Lavagnino	

Inquiry Number: 06

Department: Behavioral Wellness—General County Programs (MH Fund)

Date: 6/9/16

Page(s) of Budget Book/PowerPoint: D-488-9, Mental Health Fund Balance

Request/Question:

The existing “Mental Health” Fund or “Committed Fund Balance” has been utilized to draw down funding for IMD and inpatient beds. It appears that increased crisis beds and community treatment beds have helped to decrease the use of inpatient beds.

Could this fund also now be utilized for Behavioral Health – capital, to fund and provide opportunities for treatment and/or housing? Examples of uses could include: alternatives to incarceration, as matching funds for grants, refurbishing or purchasing of capital for Mental Health housing, land for residential treatment, etc.

Yes, the intended use of this Committed Fund Balance could be expanded. When the Mental Health fund was established in FY 2015-17, it was to be available for behavioral health inpatient bed costs in excess of budget where there was no other available departmental funding and would be reviewed annually. The Board could direct staff to extend the intended use of this fund balance to include other items such as those mentioned above or specifically direct staff, with a 3/5 vote during the Hearings, to move some or all of this balance to a capital account to be used for Behavioral Wellness needs.