

CONCERNED TAXPAYER GROUP SEEKS OVERSIGHT OF allcove BEACH CITIES ACTIVITY

As a neighborhood taxpayer and advocacy group, we are very concerned about both MHSOAC’s lack of controls and evaluation of BCHD’s allcove program, as well as the potential misuse of our taxpayer funding. The results of the BCHD allcove program demonstrate a significant bias toward whiter, advantaged, higher income, less diverse communities. The BCHD program further exacerbating the disparity of services within SPA8.

OVERSIGHT BY MHSOAC AND BCHD IS LACKING REGARDING allcove BEACH CITIES

Based on the allcove proposal evaluation criteria, areas of mental health provider shortages, disadvantaged communities, and targeted underserved groups such a LGBTQ+ and BIPOC were the primary objective of the allcove funding. Unfortunately, those objectives appear to have been ignored by BCHD in its allcove program delivery design, and MHSOAC appears to have failed in its oversight role of BCHD and protection of taxpayer funding.

allcove BEACH CITIES ENROLLMENT IS INEQUITABLE BASED ON INCOME, RACE, DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY STATUS, MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER SHORTAGES AND DEMOGRAPHIC NEED

The only plausible conclusion is that BCHD failed to target those factors that led to the creation of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), failed to target those factors used to evaluate the BCHD allcove application, failed to target those factors in the funding agreement, and that MHSOAC failed in its oversight role of the programs and funding.

How else could 70.8% of the allcove enrollees have 190% of the income level, 63% the level of non-white residents, no mental health provider shortages, and no disadvantaged communities?

	%<18	HH Income	% Non-white	% allcove Enrollment
SPA8	21.9%	\$ 93,058	70.8%	94.80%
BCHD (HB/RB/MB)	23.5%	\$ 152,392	35.6%	54.30%
The BCHD "4" (HB/RB/MB/Tor)	22.1%	\$ 129,316	52.7%	70.80%
Disadv+Below Avg Target	24.2%	\$ 67,272	84.4%	10.10%

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER SHORTAGES DO NOT APPEAR CONSIDERED

We have conducted a census tract analysis of Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 8 (SPA8) using HRSA.gov data. SPA8 is the service area for allcove Beach Cities and we determined based on program lack of performance that areas of mental health provider shortages have not been prioritized by BCHD based on current allcove results for SPA8.

Athens, Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro, and Wilmington all contain one or more census tracts with shortages of mental health providers. Increasing services to areas with shortages of providers is a primary objective of the broader CYBHI initiative that provides the funding. Those communities represent only 12.9% of the allcove enrollees/participants per BCHD.

DEMOGRAPHICS, SOCIOECONOMICS, DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES, AND UNDERSERVED GROUPS DO NOT APPEAR CONSIDERED BROADLY WITHIN SPA8

To determine which SPA8 cities have the greatest need for allcove based on demographics, socioeconomics, disadvantaged communities and underserved groups, we gathered data for proxy measures of those community factors. The variables selected were based on their sources, relative similarity to the application evaluation criteria and their ease and consistency of acquisition across all the cities. They are Cal Enviro Screen/SB 535 disadvantaged community status, fraction of the city population under the age of 18 (a Census measure), percentage of non-white residents, and average household income.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Athens, Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro and Wilmington are all disadvantaged communities by Cal Enviro Screen/SB 535 criteria. Those communities represent only 12.9% of the allcove enrollees/participants per BCHD.

DEMOGRAPHIC NEED BASED ON RELATIVE SHARE OF COMMUNITY YOUTH

The US Census metric for fraction of population under age 18 was available and of consistent quality across cities. Using the intersection of Mental Health Provider Shortage Areas and Disadvantaged Communities, we found that Athens, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Rancho Dominguez, and Wilmington all had youth populations above the average share for SPA8. By virtue of their lack of mental health providers, community disadvantage, and high population fraction of use, these seven communities qualify as priority prospects for allcove services and should receive a disproportionate share of services, effects, and expenditures. This group represents on 10.1% of the allcove enrollees/participants per BCHD data.

TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED GROUPS

US Census measures of gender preference and identity are not available currently. As a proxy, we used fraction of non-white population. Athens, Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Long Beach, Rancho Dominguez, and Wilmington all rank above the average non-white % of SPA8 and should be considered priority prospects for BIPOC and other marginalized groups. This group represents on 12.4% of the allcove enrollees/participants per BCHD data.

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Household income was used to identify economic disparity among SPA8 communities. There is an enormous disparity in income levels between the wealthier coastal and Palos Verdes Peninsula communities and the rest of SPA8. The following communities all have household income below the SPA8 average: Athens, Avalon, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Long Beach, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro and Wilmington. This group represents on 12.4% of the allcove enrollees/participants per BCHD data.

PRIORITY TARGETING IN THE allcove APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT

The priority groups were set out in both the allcove application and agreement. Further, the intent of the program as stated in the application included: "Priority will be given to applicants serving communities

with higher demonstrated need (e.g., mental health professional shortage areas, socio-economically disadvantaged communities, communities with populations of focus) or those which propose to reduce disparities between racial/ethnic/marginalized groups in the community.”

The only reasonable conclusion to draw based on the allcove Beach Cities results is that BCHD ignored the various factors of disparity and and inequity and provided the service primarily to higher income, better served, local areas without regard to appropriate targeting.



5. Grant awards will be calculated based on multiple factors, including but not limited to: number of total applications received, number of applications received by track and practice model type, and, number of total individuals expected to be impacted (i.e., served) by grant applicant as a result of the grant award. Priority will be given to applicants serving communities with higher demonstrated need (e.g., mental health professional shortage areas, socio-economically disadvantaged communities, communities with populations of focus) or those which propose to reduce disparities between racial/ethnic/marginalized groups in the community.

State of California
Mental Health Services Oversight and
Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

Beach Cities Health District
Agreement: 19MHSOAC059
Exhibit A, Scope of Work

EXHIBIT A SCOPE OF WORK

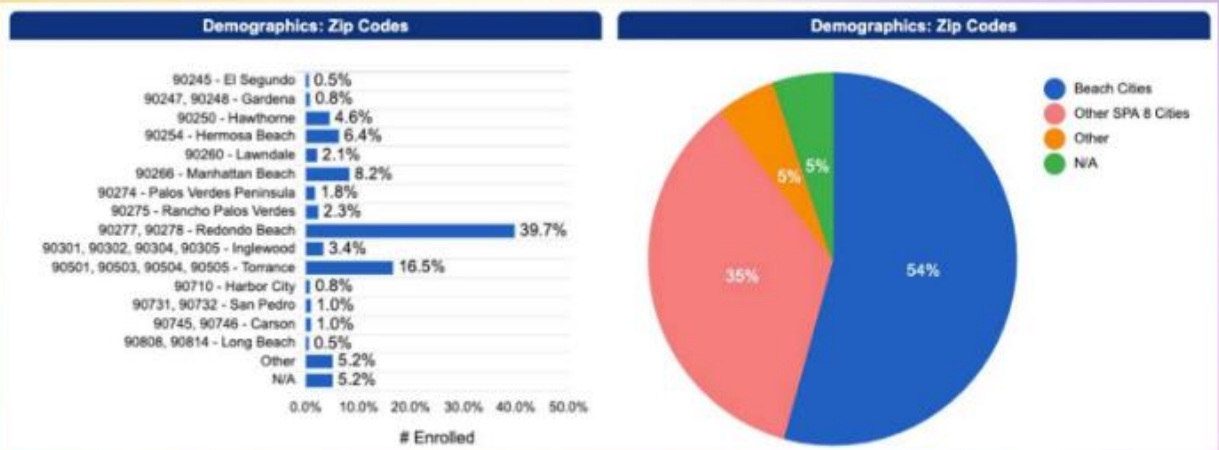
1. GENERAL:

- A. The Beach Cities Health District, hereafter referred to as Grantee, enters into this Agreement with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to establish an allcove™ model youth drop-in center, hereafter referred to as Program, which offers integrated health and wellness services as outlined in the RFA_YDC_001 (Appendix 1 –Core Implementation Components). The target group for this effort is youth and young adults between the ages of 12 to 25 with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized youth and disparity populations including, but not limited to, LGBTQ, homeless, and indigenous youth.

BCHD PERFORMANCE FOCUS IS ON WEALTHIER AND WHITER AREAS OF LA COUNTY SERVICE PLANNING AREA 8

BCHD is currently stating in a June 4, 2024 California Public Records Request (CPRA) response that allcove Beach Cities is servicing the following with allcove:

Enrolled in Service Stream



allcove

As of September 2023

Further, BCHD highlights in its CPRA response “In addition, please find the attached slide that shows the allcove Beach Cities residents’ enrollment is 54.3% and with Torrance is 70.8% (September 2023.)”