



Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 26, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director**

SUBJECT: CARE Act informational presentation to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the CARE Act Presentation to the Board.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: The Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act is a new law established by the state with a goal of connecting people with untreated serious mental illness to needed services.

The CARE Act establishes a civil court process called CARE Court designed to serve people with schizophrenia spectrum disorders who lack insight into their needs and are struggling to adequately care for themselves. The CARE Court process aims to provide participants with a clinically appropriate, community-based set of services and supports. CARE Court includes specific processes for petitioning a Court about a person of concern, and mandatory responses to that petition by the Behavioral Health Department and Public Defender. If a person is accepted into CARE Court, a CARE plan is developed and the person is monitored in court for up to a year.

Implementation of the CARE Act in Nevada County has involved designing a new court process and work flows that impact numerous County departments including Behavioral Health, Public Defenders, County Counsel and the Nevada County Courts. Numerous stakeholder meetings have been held to inform the local process and to ensure that key partners understand the CARE Court requirements. The County is prepared to go live with the local CARE Court process on December 1, 2024, as mandated by the state.

In this presentation, the Behavioral Health Department and Public Defender will share an overview of the Nevada County CARE Act plan, as well as share an overview of who is appropriate for CARE Court referrals and how community members can use this process with a goal of supporting community members with untreated mental illness in receiving needed

supports.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director