

## **Sumter Behavioral Health Services**

### **Funding request for 2023**

#### \$250,000 Sumter Women's Residential

- Infrastructure needs to address the increased demands on our staff; the need to employ more staff than in previous fiscal years to ensure adequate coverage on all shifts.
- Increased need to maintain resources to provide appropriate and 24hr/day service to a challenging population. This program requires a large staff to help cover 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week without leaving staff alone and vulnerable.
- Nearly 50% of our admissions can be to pregnant women or those in the first year of postpartum requiring level 3.5 care.
- The Sumter Women's Residential Program is consistently threatened by the reduced reimbursement of services from MCO's and Medicaid. It is increasingly difficult to keep women longer than 21 days; at which time they are not typically ready for discharge but no longer have payment for services.
- Many women entering 3.5 level of care without their children run the risk of losing their Medicaid/MCO payer.
- These issues have been exacerbated by the COVID 19. It has caused strain on staff and clients alike.
- Increased referrals for a higher level of care for women who do not have any paying insurance. We only receive so much from DAODAS through HOP funds and easily spend that on only 2-3 admissions per year. With additional funds we would be able to help at least double. This would increase our ability to fund treatment for lower income uninsured women, pregnant women, women with dependent children, or IV drug using women who are all more at risk.
- DAODAS only funds 50% of what it costs to run the program including salary, fringe and overhead on the building.

#### \$250,000 – Adolescent Outpatient

- The Sumter County area is overwhelmed with adolescents needing services. The school district has an increase of children in need; and our referrals have doubled this fiscal year where the need for additional counselors has arisen.
- Transportation and distance to services in Sumter cause a barrier. Our agency has partnered with Sumter School District and Liberty Steam Charter to offer services at the schools. We need additional funds to support our transportation costs and to hire additional counselors so that we can offer enough services without staff becoming overwhelmed.
- This specific need is for funding to employ at least 2 additional counselors to work specifically with school aged children in and out of our local school system; including a local charter school.
- South Carolina's rate of school aged children suffering from mental health issues more than doubled in 2020; results from 2022 are not in but researcher say it has not decreased. There are not enough providers in Sumter to handle the overload of

referrals. Let SBHS absorb more of the work load by employing more staff to take the services to the children.

- The request would include the provision of staff as well as funding for travel to schools, as well as supplies needed to deliver services out of office. This may include technology costs.
- There is an increased rate of incidents in schools related to substance use, suicidal ideation and attempts, self-injurious behaviors, depression, and elevated stress levels has caused an enormous increase in referrals into our system for help with those behavioral health issues. Without increasing the number of counselors on staff we are unable to keep up with the demand.

\$50,000

- Improve admissions and outreach with more aggressive community education and media awareness strategy.
- Sumter BHS will maintain year-round media campaign to include use of billboards, radio, print, social media and event sponsorships to disseminate information to the community about the risk involved with substance use and the available services in the community to provide support services to those suffering from substance abuse issues, as well as adolescent services and Residential Program



February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Hon. G. Murrell Smith, Jr  
506 Blatt Bldg.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Thank you so much for your consideration again in working with Sumter Behavioral Health Services on this funding request. You have already done so much to help the Sumter Community as well our agency. Though the previous funds given went towards infrastructure and a brand-new facility, this time I am looking to enhance our service delivery and grow our staff in order to keep up with the demands coming in. We are seeking \$550,000 to enhance service delivery in our women's program, adolescent program, and to aide in our efforts for a year long campaign with media and marketing.

We are proud here at Sumter BHS to be so needed in Sumter. I hope we can continue to expand with resources from the state as well as other areas so that we may be able to help as many as possible seek substance use treatment and behavioral health counseling to better their lives.

If you require any other information from myself, please feel free to contact me at (803) 905.5100, ext 5153.

Sincerely,

Sarah L Campbell, LPC, MAC, LACS, CS, SAP  
Executive Director