

Request for Board of Commissioners' Action

From: Faye Hughes, County Administrator **Date:** _____

Subject: Legacy Behavioral Health Services **Item Number:** Executive Session Legal Matter

From: Pamela Cartwright <pcartwright@bhsga.com>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 1:51 PM

To: Faye Hughes <cookgov@windstream.net>

Cc: Randy Lane <randy.lane314@yahoo.com>

Subject: Continued LBHS Use of Cook County Service Center Facility

Good Afternoon,

Randy Lane, South Georgia Community Service Board Chairman, has advised me that consideration is being given by Cook County officials to potentially utilize the Cook County Service Center building located at 203 Industrial Park Drive for other purposes. Please know that the partnership between Cook County and Legacy Behavioral Health Services (LBHS), which has extended for over 25 years, is most appreciated and has been vital in allowing LBHS to provide services to Cook County and its surrounding areas.

As you are no doubt aware, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous effect on the developmentally disabled (DD) population that was being served in the Cook County Service Center building. Due to these individuals being considered a high risk population and in order to minimize health risks and comply with the State of Georgia's Shelter-In- Place directives, LBHS suspended all DD Day Center services until it is safe to resume them. That said, LBHS has experienced an increase in demand for mental health services while at the same time experiencing reductions in state funding of services due to the impact of COVID-19. In light of this, LBHS is desiring to relocate the current Cook County Outpatient Clinic and Peer Support program into the Cook County Service Center Building. Relocation of these services would allow LBHS to meet facility needs for these services within Cook County and eliminate any additional expenses necessary to provide these services.

If possible, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with the appropriate individual(s) prior to a final decision being made to re-purpose the Cook County Service Center building. It is my hope that LBHS will be able to continue to use the Cook County Service Center building to provide services to the residents of Cook County; however, if this is not the case, I would ask for a minimum of 30 days' notice to vacate the building.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information from me regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Cartwright, CEO
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