

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

January 26, 2022

9:00am – 10:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department

Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Sharon Jones, Bacilia Mendez, Cindy Mattox, Monica Adrian, Ye Thao, Jenna Nunes, Fernando Granados, Linda Deol, Patti Kishi, Daniel Garribay, Maria Colomer, Conor Maloney, Crystal Ramos, Cara Rupp, Griselda Vasquez, Sandra Sandoval, Caroline De Bie, Heydi Herrera, Rachael Avila, Jessica Herrington, Jaz Chima, Jose Chavez, Ayesha Hunter, Rocio Ortega, Zeus Baldevia, Tony Lor, Kristin Fierro, Venessa Garcia

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for December 17, 2022 was motioned by Monica Adrian and seconded Conor Maloney. The motion carried.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Sign in with your full name and agency you are representing so that we can keep a record of your attendance for this meeting

IV. Notice to the Public

No Report

V. Chair's Report

No chair's Report but do want to talk about 988 Hot Line for Suicidal Mental Health. In doing some training for Mental Health for both Merced and Stanislaus County talking about 988 cards, seems like there is still plenty of individuals that are not aware about the 988 cards. Despite all the information that is going out about the cards. I'm inviting everyone to help advertise the Hotline for Suicidal Mental Health 988 card.

VI. BHRS Report

Behavior Health and Recovery Services played a big important part in participating at the Resource Center at Martin Luther King during the flooding by supporting and helping families at whatever it was needed along with other Community Agencies. Still Cultivating the North County Clinic, getting up to speed, our previous Clinic was at Livingston Community and now its in Winton Community. BHRS is still on COVID protocol in terms on wearing mask because we are a Health Care Agency.

VII. Update on Behavioral Health Director

Jackie coulter, who was our Assistant Director, no longer with the Department as of December 31, 2022. We are recruiting for an Assistant Director. Patricia Medina who was our Facilities Manager for Marie Green is no longer with the Department. Alicia Tacata our Compliance Manager Officer is no longer with the Department. Key staff have left and we are transition of hiring. As of yesterday, Rebecca Gray our Quality Assurance Specialist no longer in our Department if you can send all correspondence to Sharon. We have a new Behavior Health Director as it was confirmed by the Board on Tuesday. This person is Kimiko Vang and live in our community as I live in the Community. She will be starting on Monday January 30, 2023, she is a Deputy Director at Human Services Agency, she has lots of education, qualification, years of experience.

VIII. Discussion on MHSA program Review Preparation

Our MHSA Program Review will begin on Tuesday @1pm, Cindy Mattox our Staff Services Analyst has been reaching out to every one and doing a phenomenal job. She is putting it all together and its looking great. Have been meeting people and

telling them to speak of the great work that your doing in front of the Reviewers. The Reviewers have mentioned that we are doing a great job in terms of all the desk review and documents.

Monica asked; when are they going to select the isolated programs they will visit or will you not know till the last minute.? Sharon replied, they have already selected, The Merced Adult Wellness Center, Duel Diagnosis Program, Gateway Terrance, and the CUBE. Reach out to me to do more Focus Group. The Review begins on Tuesday January 31 @1pm until February 2, 2023.

IX. Update on Community Program Planning Process

We are in a community planning process for MHSA Three Year Plan 2023-2026. We had a few Focus Groups but in need of some more or fill out your comment cards and send them to Sharon to gather the Stakeholder voices of Merced County as it related to the Plan. We have had many critical incidents beginning with COVID 19. Now the Flooding, so families need care. We want to make sure we are mobilizing our Programs for impact so we can surely help families. We are having an Early Intervention & Prevention Focus Group on the 7th, registration was sent out yesterday. We have not had a quarterly meeting. What are the needs of PEI and any upstream strategies to help people? Fernando just mentioned the 988 Cards getting the word out and inform the Community. We have to be consistent on informing the community of our 988 Cards.

X. Presentation by Resources Development Associate on Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Evaluation Report for the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN)

Vanessa Garcia and Caroline De Bie with Resource Development Associates, presented regarding the Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) Evaluation Findings Year 3 from July 2021 – June 2022. The Full report does contain more details on the program matrix outcomes and consumer experiences which is available for anyone that its interested, it was send out to everyone. What we are looking at this annual evaluation include: to understand how BHRS is implementing the ISN and who the ISN is serving, and to what extent the ISN is improving access to an engagement in services, and how the ISN is improving consumers' experiences of care. How is it improving care coordination among inter Agencies Partners? The PowerPoint presentation provided a brief introduction on the background, and information on the ISN teams, impact of COVID, ISN consumers and referrals, ISN consumer barriers, ISN services, ISN program outcomes, service linkages for ISN-Y and ISN-Adult, behavioral health outcomes for ISN-Adult, and consumer experiences; contact information was also provided.

Sharon Jones – As I listen to the Presentation, did we accomplish the goal from back in the beginning, ISN went for 5 years. The ISN as it exists under Innovation Funding will stop on February 1 2023 because that is the time frame MHSA has given. I am really excited to hear this quote because this is what I wanted 5 years ago. The ISN has stepped up the Mental Health Game. As the MHSA Coordinator that is what is in the deep well of my Heart that we step up the Mental Health of the Behavior Health Game. I am pretty excited about building in this Philosophy about Mental Health. Eliminating barriers, more flexibility, meeting the client where they are,

Cara Rupp- Coming back to Mental health on 2022, the INS Program was one of the programs I was most excited about because it really follows the Recovery Model of meeting the clients where they are at. Listening to what their need and goals are and not just assume we are going to do Meds but really see what the client needs right now, building that relationship with the clients. The fact that clients are saying things like you see me as a person, a human, that is what its all about. I see the ISN team building those relationship and engaging with clients and they really come to trust them. This are client with a lot of barriers and stigma and many things against them. I agree with Sharon in Stepping up the Mental Health Game, I think that INS has really been a lead on showing what can be done around our Community.

Sharon Jones - In 2008 when I started here our Mantra was Mental Health happens in the Community and now we need to add to it. The ISN had step up the Mental Health Game.

Jessica Herrington - Primary focus is around Long-Term Linkage, What Resources are around the community? Do we have a list of the Resources? We stumble a lot on not knowing the Resources at the Community. Some clients that have Private Insurance and ask about Resources, I am not really sure who to refer them to. It doesn't seem that we have local Mental Health Provider for Private Insurance.

Jenna Nunes – Program Coordinator for Sierra Vista, Oversee ISNY Program. We do get quite a few clients with Private Insurance. That is a main reason for a Referral or unable to connect to a provider because they are unavailable or wait time is to long. We do have a list of Resource that I can share but many times its just advocating parents on how they can access

things in current place, when they do talk to a provider and find out there is a 2- 3 month wait, we encourage them to get on the list. In the mean time we provide clinical services until they are connected. The importance of both ISNY Programs, is that we do not close them until they are connected, that's the reason why sometimes they do go over the 30 days. Monica asked, what is the waiting time? Jenna answered within 24 hours after referral is received. Monica asked, how long after that will there be an appointment? Jenna answered, usually the very next week. Monica asked, do you provide Meds there? Jenna answered, no we do not provide Meds for Youth Program. We do connect them to PCP or BHRS

XI. Administrative Updates and Changes

We have a New Director and hiring for an Assistant Director, Tina Machado our Human Resource Director is also leaving. Any other update I will send out to entire group.

XII. Announcements

Monica Adrian - Started an in-person inclusion social skills building play groups back up in the City of Merced as of October on Thursdays. We had them running for a year and a half since COVID in Los Banos. Families that you are working with interested in attending, we are up and running.

Sharon Jones - In an email I received, the Pride Center is changing locations, it came from Jennifer McQueen.

Jaz Chima – February 6 @1:30pm we will be hosting a Focus Group at HSA for MHSA 3-year plan. In regards to the flooding, Our Planada Community Center where we have Congregate Meal Program for seniors is still closed, half of the participants coming to Merced the other half decided to stay, also schedule for your view next week.

XIII. Possibilities and Success Stories

Sharon Jones – To infuse the Philosophy of the ISN, to further transform the Department and Behavior Health Care.

Fernando Granados - Any update on budget that we spoke about several meetings ago,

Sharon Jones - We are going to have a Focus Group on PEI early next week on February 7 and when we collect all information in that meeting then we will talk about budget. We will talk about all the PEI programs and the approved amounts in the meeting. I will have a hand out and we can expand it further. We are in the process of building the next BHRS budget.

XIV. Next Steps

See you all next month

XV. Adjournment

10:02 AM