

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

January 21, 2021

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Monica Adrian, Wendy Campbell, Joanna Castaneda, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Cesar Garcia, Fernando Granados, Denis Haines, See her, Christopher Jensen, Jennifer Jones, Sharon Jones, Patti Kishi, Cindy Mattox, Christy McCammond, Rebecca McMullen, Marilyn Mochel, Ismael Munoz, Jenna Nunes, Jesse Ornelas, Maria Orozco, Nancy Reding, Aracely Sanchez, Jeff Sabeen, Ralph Silva Rodriguez, Anna Santos, Cari Urquiza, Griselda Vasquez, Siaxouwyee Vue, Jennifer Xiong, Wayne Yang

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for December 17, 2020 was motioned /seconded (Nancy Reding /Jenna Nunes) and carried.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Fernando Granados, Chair, encouraged all attendees to confirm their attendance via chat or by emailing Maria Orozco.

IV. Notice to the Public

Denis Haines, Family Resource Center of Merced County Office of Education-Early Education Department, shared that they applied for an ACES awareness grant last year. They had 4 grant opportunities and were rewarded 1 of them as the communication piece for the ACES aware grant from the state of California. ACE overcomers and Denis have collaborated in Merced County to put together an awareness campaign for those medical providers that are doing a couple things with ACES scoring system. One of those things is to be trained in the protocols for the ACE score so that they can receive some medical dollars of 29 dollars worth. Part of that process is when the scores come back and the medical providers are taking a look at those scores, they are trying to determine which resources are available for their clients. Denis mentioned that one of the things they have been doing is setting up several pieces to accommodate the medical providers. He mentioned that they just launched 5 billboards in Merced County in the end of December so that people know where to call and where to go. Denis is willing to share more information with the council. He added that the other part was to do videotaping of several individuals in Merced County that had resiliency from their trauma; they have some great stories that they will be putting up on their website. The fourth piece is the ACES of phases, which is another video program they will put up on their website. Denis noted that he could be emailed for more information and provided the website link via chat.

Monica Adrian, Caring Kids, noted that they have not had a lot of medical providers in our county go through the training that the state has set up. She said that they also want to show that those on the call, who are providing any type of service, go through that training and then are able to bill medical for the ACE screenings. Denis noted that their website has the location and where they can get that training. There are other ACE awareness grantees in the state of California that are doing training under the 12th year. Denis suggested visiting the website for ACE Connection to sign up for email notifications and information on trainings in this area. Fernando Granados let Denis know that he could reach out to Caitlin Haygood to be added to the presentation list.

Nancy Reding shared that on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM, she is hosting a Zoom meeting with senator, Anna Caballero; they are having house Zoom meetings. She noted that Anna Caballero is open and wants to hear the voices of her constituents, any concerns, ideas, or thoughts. Nancy provided her email via chat and asked to be contacted for a Zoom invite.

Jennifer Xiong with Hlub Hmong Center informed that they have been having Hlub Hmong Parent Champion biweekly meetings to gather Hmong families to talk about issues in the community, and to provide a safe space for them to meet, connect, support each other, and learn to advocate for services for the community. Jennifer shared the flyer via chat for anybody that has any Hmong families that they service.

Jesse Ornelas with Youth Leadership Institute, shared with stakeholders about a need that their youth have, and that they have been working with since March. They've had 1 young person pass away from an overdose. In recent months they've had up to 4 youth either having 72 hours holds, mental health breakdowns, and a couple more overdoses, including runaways. They are trying to put together a youth resource list but the problem they are having is that they have youth of color that don't feel comfortable going to BHRS or they're not really as high need. He noted that the CUBE is also not open at the moment so they are having a hard time getting all the resources together. Jesse provided his email via chat and asked stakeholders for any resources they are able to share. They are trying their best to meet the needs of the youth, but can only do so much as they are not a direct service organization.

Dr. Jennifer Jones, BHRS, said that although they cannot drop into the CUBE as usual, if they need someone to talk to, the CUBE is still available for them to call in and make appointments to be able to go. The CUBE is doing virtual groups from the CUBE. If there are any young people who still need that type of support, Dr. Jones asked to please have them call over to the CUBE. The number to the CUBE is (209)381-6800, extension 3248 or 3608. Staff is still available, wanting to support the youth and trying to give them direction during this time. Jesse Ornelas explained that the issue they are having with the CUBE is the stigma that the place has being connected to mental health and its location. Dr. Jones said that right now they don't have to show up physically and maybe the staff can help them work through some of that stigma. She added that this is a really good time to do that since they don't actually have to be in the building, and maybe by the time the building is open they will have some time to work with them and break down some of the barriers. Jesse expressed his appreciation as that is the part they are trying to navigate and normalize – wellness with their youth, especially young black women. Dr. Jones mentioned that if he needs help talking to those young ladies, to please let her know because she will encourage them to come, and support them through the process. Dr. Jones said to feel free to reach out and get them connected.

Nancy shared that she is a recovering drug addict, and survived an overdose and suicide; she volunteered to be a resource as well.

Fernando Granados also reminded about the Youth ISN (Innovative Strategist Network). If there is stigma attached to that they can be referred that way. He mentioned that Jenna Nunes will be doing a presentation to their organization next week so that will be another pathway.

Sharon Jones noted that she would be willing to go online on Zoom with the women as well and provide support, answer questions, and provide encouragement if that was something Jesse wanted to set up. Jesse said that most likely being able to set up calls with their adult allies closer than how he works with them. Sharon asked that he reach out to Caitlin Haygood or Maria Orozco to set it up. Also in setting up, linkage can be provided to appropriate things that they might be willing to be connected to or maybe it can be an ongoing circle of support for a while just to strengthen during this time.

V. Chair's Report

Fernando Granados encouraged everyone to stay safe and healthy. He added that we will continue to meet virtually until we can meet in person.

VI. Director's Report

No Report.

VII. Program Presentation: PEI Strengthening Families

Sharon Jones, Mental Health Services Act Coordinator, presented a Power Point on the Prevention and Early Intervention Strengthening Families program. The program has been around since it was approved in 2010, and was up and running in 2011. The presentation provided information on what is Strengthening Families, the services provided, what a Strengthening Family partner does, the referral process, 2019/2020 data, 2019/2020 SMART goals and outcomes, Strengthening Families staff and communities served, impact of COVID-19 and current activities, and successful outreach drive through events.

VIII. Kick-off MHSA Annual Update Presentation for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Sharon Jones presented a PowerPoint regarding the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for fiscal year 2021-2022. The presentation provided information on the background, the MHSA components that should be addressed, the update vs the three year plan, who should be involved in the stakeholder process, what should be included in the stakeholder process, standards for the stakeholder process, public review, what to include about the stakeholder process, what to include about programs, what to include about performance outcomes, and next steps.

IX. Discussion on Innovation Plan

As part of the MHSA Annual Update, Sharon Jones provided a brief presentation about Innovation. The presentation included information about how the innovation plan starts by identifying a need, current strategy, research components, funds, what the project will contribute to learning and collaborations, developing the Innovation Program Plan and Logic Model, and the submission process of the proposal to the state. Sharon asked to be contacted regarding any further questions.

Christy McCammond requested a copy of the Power Point presentation so that as community partners they can understand how to support Sharon in getting this report ready. Sharon will be cleaning it up and then will have Maria send it out.

X. MHSA Needs Assessment

Sharon Jones said that we are doing the needs assessment for the entire BHRS system. Each year we have focus groups, key informant interviews, feedback sent via email, public hearings, etc. Starting last year, the Resource Development Associates are really taking a look at all of our system and our programs in regards to capacity, strengths, and needs. There should be a needs assessment or at least a draft of a needs assessment real soon to share with the council. This is a requirement per our MHSA audit. We need to have a capacity needs assessment completed to know the needs, and what we are capable of doing in terms of service delivery – that is on the way currently.

XI. Quarterly Reports

Sharon mentioned that we do have a time frame for quarterly reports to try to get in alignment. We have the Community Services and Support report and Prevention and Early Intervention. We want to make sure we are doing our part and quarterly reports are going out in a timely manner so that they could be completed.

Monica Adrian asked Aracely Sanchez if she is going to email them their template to complete the report for this quarter, or are they just going to use what they already have. Monica noted that in the past, Ruby would save it and they would be able to edit the previous quarters. Aracely has heard that a lot as far as the previous process where Ruby locked the templates. Aracely unlocked them so they would be able to add on to their template and submit that. If for whatever reason, they still come across a locked cell or continue having difficulties, Aracely asked to be contacted to make corrections and send it back. Monica asked if reports still need to be submitted by Sunday, January 31st. Aracely noted that on the contract it states that it is due on the 31st; she doesn't know what everybody's operation hours are but if they don't work on the weekend it would be due on the 29th.

XII. Administrative Updates and Changes

Sharon reported that the biggest update and change is in regards to the Innovative Strategist Network Project. There are many referral pathways in the Innovative Strategist Network on how individuals can get connected to the program. The most recent update was that there was a pathway open for justice and community integration in regards to families and young people that are living with a mental illness or are interfacing with the legal system. Prior to that, during the pandemic, opening up a pathway to try to support the homeless who are unsheltered during a public health emergency. Sharon noted that no extra money is being used for these projects; they are just opening pathways to eliminate barriers and open pathways to help for health for people.

Jenna Nunes, Sierra Vista, asked if there was a youth component for that pathway and if they would be expecting referrals going to ISN-Y. Sharon explained that not at this point. As Sharon gets more information, they will be contacted immediately if that's the case. Sharon currently does not have any information on that.

XIII. Possibilities and Success Stories

Nancy Reding recommended that if the director is unable to attend this meeting, if she sends a report either through

Sharon, through our site, or through Maria to have updates from her. Sharon assured that this would be included in the minutes and would be passed on.

Monica Adrian said that many of them received an email asking if they were interested in getting a vaccine at BHRS, and asked Sharon for more information on what they can expect. Sharon shared that she received her vaccine yesterday. She explained that Audrey Rodarte is arranging and scheduling it. Once it is scheduled, they send you an email and ask that you show up at the location, Marie Green, where they have you sit down and read some information regarding the vaccine and any pre-existing medical conditions. Sharon received the Pfizer vaccine. Once the nurse provides the vaccine, you have to sit for 15 -30 minutes in case of a reaction and then are free to go. Monica asked, if they completed the survey, if at some point they should be expecting a call from Audrey. Sharon said yes, you are placed on a list and then Audrey will send you an email for an appointment date and time.

Nancy Reding recommended taking some type of over the counter pain relief. She shared that she did and her arm is not sore or anything.

Jennifer Xiong, Hlub Hmong Center, shared that they just hired a new program assistant, Wayne Yang, who was present at the meeting. He is supporting them with their work, particularly social media and special projects; he comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience of community engagement organizing in the Hmong community. They are really happy to have him. Jennifer also shared that one of their success stories is that they formed a Hmong Education Champion Team that will focus on Hmong academic success. They will be addressing 3 priorities this year: To collect ethnic specific data, hold schools accountable to celebrate cultural diversity particularly Hmong culture, and learn how to advocate and be active citizens.

Ismael Munoz noted that he shared an invitation via chat regarding the Project Grow Food Coalition for everyone to share. He added that they had a great first meeting with 11 people present and hope to grow it and get the initiative moving forward. Sharon Jones requested information on Project Grow; Ismael will be sending information to Sharon to distribute to the group.

XIV. Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021.

XV. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:04am