

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

February 23, 2023

9:00am – 10:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department

Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Sharon Jones, Bacilia Mendez, Cindy Mattox, Ye Thao, Jenna Nunes, Fernando Granados, Patti Kishi, Maria Colomer, Cara Rupp, Griselda Vasquez, Jessica Herrington, Jaz Chima, Jose Chavez, Zeus Baldevia, Tony Lor, MistyRose Bautista, Leslie Benitez, Irene Cacho, Nou Chang, Emily Diaz, Lila Eslinger, Dennis Haines, Jason Her, Ursula Vasquez, Fraulein Lacy, Angie Mena, Jesse Ornelas, Rocio Ortega, Ruth Portillo, Lorena Samano, Lanetta Smyth, Nancy Valdovinos, Belle Vallador, Cheryl Welch Mitchell, Nikki

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

MistyRose Bautista made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2023, and Jessica Herrington seconded. The motion was approved.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

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

IV. Notice to the Public

Sharon informed the group about the Youth to Youth event that will be on April 1st. more information will be sent out to everyone.

Fernando reported that Sierra Vista received funding to facilitate Mental Health First Aid Training for adults and youth in Merced County. Any organization interested in MHFA can contact Fernando, The adult training is 7.5 hours and the youth training is 6.5 hours for in person.

Cheryl added, Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) has the Dream Big Conference, the Parent Institute on Saturday March 4, 2023 at 9 am with registration at 8 am, she will be sending out the flyer to everyone.

From Chat; Nikki- Reported that the community baby shower for new and expecting mothers will be on Saturday March 25, 2023, from 12 pm to 4 pm at Christian Life Center 650 E. Olive Ave. in Merced, Ca.

Katalina Zambrano stated that the second week of March, Somos Familia Valle Central will be helping transgender individuals changed their name, Gender markers and walking them through the steps of Trans rights and trans employment,

V. Chair's Report

No Report

VI. BHRS Report

Kimiko Vang the new BHRS Director started on January 30th. BHRS is still under COVID protocol so when coming to our building masks are still a requirement because we are a healthcare agency. COVID has changed the workforce and many companies are offering telework and teletherapy. At BHRS there is an ongoing big discussion that relates to teletherapy. When looking from a culturally responsive perspective is it better to have services face to face or to provide them on a social media platform. Merced County has population groups that are collective, where multiple family members are in the room engaging

in the therapy process face to face. The current trend is that more practitioners are requesting to work from home. So there will be more information to come. We are still recruiting for Assistant Director, Compliance Manager, and Multiple Division Directors.

VII. MHSA Three Year Plan

The Mental Health Service Act three-year plan highlights all programs funded and approved during the community program planning process. The focus groups have started for the MHSA three-year-plan. There is a focus group today from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss the needs of the Southeast Asian Community. If you are available please join us at 301 E 13th Street. The three-year plan is a requirement of the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA). The MHSA Plan includes data on how many people we are serving, a description of the programs, the outcomes, and satisfaction surveys. It tells a story and helps us see where we need to improve or make changes. The year when we are not doing a three-year plan, we are developing an Annual Update. The annual update will be to the Three-Year Plan. Our current Three-Year-Plan is for Fiscal Years 2023-2026.

Fernando asked if the Three-Year Plan, is where contractors can ask about the possibility of budget increases and adjustments and costs. Sharon answered, yes during community planning we collect feedback which informs decisions and changes within the plan. The feedback is reviewed by the BHRS Director and leadership and presented to stakeholders. Yes, definitely the Three-Year Plan is when program expansions and approvals occur. The Three Year Plan goes to the Board of Supervisor for final approval.

There has been a briefing and conversation with our new Director about Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), The PEI funded programs have not received an expansion or increase to their program since 2009. The programs were developed and began in 2009. Fernando stated, it's only being asked because it has been brought up at a previous meeting. This is a reminder to everyone on this zoom call of the importance of participating in the focus groups so that the issues are discussed.

VIII. MHSA Proposed changes

Proposed changes like Fernando mentioned of possible increases for Prevention and Early Intervention PEI component of MHSA at Merced County. Like some additional staff requested for particular programs, transportation car to pick up clients, expansion of our full-service partnership. All have been verbalized and possible proposed changes that may occur in the plan. Once all propose changes are finalized they will be presented here and then at the Behavior Health Public hearing. Before the Public Hearing you will get a chance to see the Draft three-year plan, for a chance to review and send comments and to participate at the Public Hearing with the Behavior Health Board. At this point we are crafting the propose changes as feedback is received, and all proposed change will be on a Draft Annual Update until the Behavior Health Board Supervisors approves them.

IX. Tentative Timeline

There is tentative time line that has been established to meet the state deadline of submitting the Three Year Plan by June 30. There is a possibility that we might not meet the deadline because of staff shortage. As the MHSA Coordinator, I could ask for an extension if needed. As a part of the Community Program Planning Process is focus groups, and key informant interviews. After all the feedback is collected, it is placed in the draft plan that has to be posted for 30 days for public comments and feedback. The auditor controller has to review the plan and signoff on the plan. The Public hearing is held after the 30 day posting After all the minutes, and public comments have been included and updated the Behavior Health Advisory Board will vote on the action to approve that the plan goes to the Board of Supervisors.. When it goes to the Board of Supervisor you can still make comments at their meeting. Once the Board of Supervisors approves the plan we have 30 days to submit to the Department of Health Care Services and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability. The State is working on putting more guidelines into the Communities Program Planning Process.

X. Discussion on Focus Group Feedback

In facilitating several focus groups, the feedback received from several people was do not underestimate the value of our informal networks in our community. In the focus groups they talked about networks that really help families by being there in real time.

We are having have a Focus Group today from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at BHRS in the conference center. Also, if anyone would like provide a key informant interview please send me an email. In speaking with Dr Sandoval, he informed me that the Madera Hospital has been closed so that makes it difficult for patients in the community. I also learned that more community base

organizations need to be in this meeting. We need to have more meetings like this one to discuss in real time what is happening in the community and come up with a solution right away. Jaz mention that the staff that attended the focus group at HSA found it very useful, informative and enjoyed it.

Nancy Valdovinos – La Familia Central Valley, is planning a family day in Santa Nella for May 15 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm, they are trying to get other Community Agency together to give information out. There will be raffle, food and many activities.

Jose Chavez – Attended Planada City Council Meeting on last week on Thursday and the community wanted to thank HSA for the support.

Dennis Haines –from Family Resource Center of Merced, for the last 3.5 years, we have been working with Sharon, and BHRS, putting together the Adverse Childhood Experience Inform Network of Care, ACE INC, we have about 80 members and want to continue growing. We will be having an event this year on October 14, 2023 a Health Fair at the park in Merced. I would like to invite everyone to get involve with ACE INC Program. We meet three times a month anyone interested put your email in the chat.

XI. New Program name:

There is an Innovative Strategist Network for Adults and Innovative Strategist Network for Youth. As of February 21 2023 the program ended under innovation funds, it was a five-year project.

After the five years of the program if it is a success it is placed under other funding. BHRS has made a decision to place the programs under CSS and PEI. The adult program will go under Community Services and Support (CSS) and for the youth program will be funded under Prevention and Early Intervention. Since it's no longer being under Innovation funding, the BHRS Director has recommended that the name changes from Innovative Strategist Network to BSN for Adults, BSN for Youth.

- **Behavioral Strategist Network for Adults**
- **Behavioral Strategist Network for Youth**

XII. Peer Support Groups

Peer Support plays a vital role to the healing experience when it comes to mental health. BHRS along with contract providers are in the process of working towards peer support staff certifications. CALMHSA, California Mental Health Services Authorities, gave out scholarships to pay for taking the take test to get certified. Sharon will be facilitating several Peer Support Groups a week. Ayesha Hunter the Program Manager is no longer working here at BHRS. An important factor about getting certification, Peer Support Group would be able to chart in EHR health record.

Griselda asked if the Peer Support Certification is open to all contract providers and if so, how would you look into getting certified? Sharon answered, information will be sent out on what is required for the certification.

Lanetta reported that 4 Peer Support Specialist have passed their test. If anyone wants to work as Peer Support Specialist that you know, have them go to website to apply. We really need Peer Support Specialist and Mental Health Workers. Sharon added, that's great, and if we can have Caitlin send the information to Bacilia so the information can go to everyone

Nancy Valdovinos asked a question that since she is a Cultural Broker doing, peer support, will it be a requirement to get certified if we are contracted? Sharon answered, it would be wonderful to get certified if you can. At BHRS there is the Peer Support Specialist job tittle and being a Cultural Broker is not a requirement. We will send you the information and you can see if it's something you're interested.

XIII. Administrative Updates and Changes

We have a New Director and we are now recruiting for an Assistant Director, 2 Division Director, Compliance Manager, and hiring consistently for Peer Support Specialist and other positions.

XIV. Announcements

Nancy Valdovinos – We are working with a Veteran that used to own a furniture store and is donating furniture to families affected by the flood. I will be emailing my information so if anyone is interested you can email me to connect you with him.

Irene Cacho – We were out at the Felix Torres complex, there is still about 36 families out there waiting on FEMA and were denied by Red Cross. The community has a long road to recovery, moving forward we can do more focus groups. The Bear Creek Apartments has a resource center that had a red ribbon cutting ceremony about a month ago. The Planada Community Center is being repair.

Sharon – We would like to put Dennis Haines and Nancy Valdovinos on the agenda for next meeting to talk about their program and work that they are doing out in the community and anyone else that is interested.

Dennis – Family Resource Center is located at 623 W 13th Street we are dedicated to, like some else said “building from the ground up neighborhood to neighborhood and going door to door.” We are having some focus meetings. We submitted our plan to the state for childhood prevention and received funded for 3 more years. If interested send me your emails.

XV. Possibilities and Success Stories

Belle – We have a breast cancer research program, we are collaborating with UC Merced Ninety per cent of the survivals are from the Planada Community. During the flood some of the survivors were temporally placed at the fairgrounds and they reached out to us at Healthy House for help. We were able to get them temporally housing in hotels. We are working with Section 8 to place them in apartments with vouchers. Mothers attending our OFIA program age 0-5 were also displaced during the flooding but we were able to help them.

From Chat Nancy – There were clothes donated and available for those affected by the floods.

XVI. Next Steps

None

XVII. Adjournment

09:57 AM