

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

February 25, 2021

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Sharon Jones, Fernando Granados, Monica Adrian, Zeus Baldevia, Joanna Castaneda, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Jamie Dorsey, Caitlin Haygood, Marili Hernandez, Patti Kishi, Cindy Mattox, Katilyn McIntire, Rebecca McMullen, Ismael Munoz, Maria Orozco, Lloyd Pareira, Sally Ragonut, Nancy Reding, Stephanie Russell, Aracely Sanchez, Sandra Sandoval, Anna Santos, Emma Schifsky, Siouxouyee Vue

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Sharon Jones informed everyone that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of reporting what is being said. Fernando Granados asked Sharon more about the purpose. Sharon explained that as result of it being public, it can be recorded. Most recently, there have been new guidelines for Zoom and electronic type meetings. Sharon added that anything that the Mental Health Services Act does is subject to the public records act. Even if a meeting is not recorded, at any given time if anyone would like to request those records, they can. For the purpose of a Zoom meeting, it is Sharon's responsibility to inform that it is being recorded in case anyone wants to opt out they can.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for January 21, 2021 was motioned /seconded (Ismael Munoz /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

Joana Castaneda, Central California Alliance for Health, shared that Castle Family Health Centers will be having a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for people over the age of 65, as well as agricultural workers. It will be in Atwater, and the phone number to register is 209-726-1235. She noted that she is also with the Binational Health Committee, who is collaborating with Castle Family Health Centers to put this event together. Fernando asked if it was for farmworkers of any age or only those over the age of 65. Joanna will be getting clarification – she knows it is for high risk agriculture workers. They're aiming to have 30% of vaccinations allocated for the 1B tier and the additional 70% would be for 65 and over. Fernando asked Joanna to email Maria Orozco once she gets clarification if she could email Maria Orozco to distribute to the group.

Monica Adrian, Caring Kids, asked if the vaccine is for everyone in the 1B tier, or just agriculture. Joanna responded that it is only going to be for agriculture workers in 1B, as well as education workers. Monica was wondering if the word could be spread with people in education. Joanna noted that she would try to get clarification by the end of the meeting and provide an update.

Ismael Munoz, Community Initiatives for Collective Impact, shared that he called the number provided and was informed that anyone who works in education is eligible to sign up. Ismael shared with Monica Adrian that he did not make an appointment as he is not in education.

Alyssa Castro, Youth Leadership Institute, asked via chat about a flyer. Monica mentioned that she saw the flyer circulating on social media and asked Joanna if she could share it. Joanna explained that the flyer has not actually been developed but thinks it was being finalized today. She noted that what was seen on social media was a Facebook event, not a flyer. The Facebook link will be shared with the group as well. Sharon Jones asked Joanna if she could send the link to Maria Orozco to make sure that information is disseminated to each person as a result of this committee.

V. Chair's Report

No Report

VI. BHRS Report

Sharon Jones informed that moving forward she will be giving the BHRS report, where she will be bringing everyone up to speed on what is happening at BHRS.

VII. Resource Development Associates Evaluation Presentation on Innovative Strategist Network

Jamie Dorsey with Resource Development Associates presented a PowerPoint regarding the evaluation on the Innovative Strategist Network. The presentation provided information on the ISN teams, ISN Process Flow & Activities, ISN Evaluation, Impact of COVID-19 on ISN, Consumers and Referrals, Consumer Barriers, Services, Program Outcomes, service linkages, consumer experience, consumer impact stories, and next steps.

Siouxouyee Vue, with Hlub Hmong Center, asked if there was any ethnic specific data on who the ISN has served. Jamie explained that they have a full report where they do have information on demographics. Jamie mentioned that if there was any specific question that Siouxouyee had, she could look it up and put it in the chat box. Siouxouyee responded that she would like to know who was served from the Southeast Asian ethnicity. Emma Schifsky noted that she would put that information in the chat box.

VIII. MHSA Community Planning Process Update

Sharon Jones reminded everyone that we are in the middle of a community planning process for the annual update to the 3 year plan 2020/2021 and 2022/2023. Sharon added that this was kicked off at the last meeting and there was a discussion about entering into a new community planning process.

IX. Annual Update due June 30, 2021

As a result of the community planning process there will be an annual update that is developed through this process. Sharon Jones informed that the annual update has to be submitted to the state, Department of Healthcare Services and Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability, by June 30, 2021. As Sharon stated last time, the state has shifted their deadlines in the way that they do business. Usually the annual update is submitted in December, but now the annual update has to be submitted to the state by June 30, 2021.

X. Scheduling Focus Groups

Sharon Jones shared that as part of the community planning process and annual update, is scheduling focus groups. Sharon Jones shared that focus groups are already being set up because they have a quick turnaround. The focus groups that the MHSA team is working on are for high school educators, elementary and middle school educators, several that are open to the general public, justice involved individuals, BHRS contracted agency staff, BHRS consumers, LGBTQ+ community, law enforcement, and several others for the public. She noted that we are trying to get them scheduled – Caitlin Haygood has reached out to many individuals. As she is receiving emails, the schedule is being updated. Correspondence will go out to each of them as valued stakeholders.

XI. Specific Innovation Focus Groups related to Criminal Justice and Mental Health

Sharon Jones mentioned that it is also time for a new innovation project. There will also be specific innovation focus groups with the central theme of criminal justice and mental health. Separate focus groups will be scheduled around that specific topic as well. More to come on that as we move forward and try to get all the requirements to the state by June 30, 2021.

XII. General Focus Groups

Sharon Jones informed that there will be focus groups inclusive of all people. She noted that we want to make sure that everyone has their voice heard through these focus groups and feedback is given as well.

Fernando Granados asked if for the specific innovation focus, the innovation is going to focus on criminal justice and mental health, and if that will be the next innovation plan.

Sharon responded, yes, that is how the conversation will start and may evolve in other directions. She mentioned one of the reasons being that when you look at the criminal justice system and mental health, it also goes into our racial and ethnic groups and the many intersections to our racial and ethnic cultural groups as well. It is really a conversation about criminal justice but it is a huge conversation that has many intersections. The focus groups will be a way to collect that feedback.

Fernando also asked if the community identified the criminal justice and mental health as the forefront for the innovative plan, or how it was identified.

Sharon explained that it's identified through feedback received through prior focus groups and key informant interviews. Once there is a draft or concept of what the biggest voice is, that is how we will move forward with developing a program with all of the feedback that individuals are going to give. Sharon stated that this is where we are at this point in time, 9:37 AM, 2/25/2021. More to come on that. Sharon said to expect correspondence on focus groups and innovation. Sharon may be contacted for further questions.

XIII. Discussion on Aces and Toxic Stress Development of Implementation Plan

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services has received a planning grant ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and toxic stress and a network of care. Basically developing a plan to support adverse childhood experiences screening. Sharon explained that it's on the agenda because she will be reaching out to many from the council to join in this endeavor. She added that right now they have an internal committee where they are sorting out through the GET charts to determine what deliverables they have to meet, milestones, and time frames. More information to come on that as well. She mentioned that a high ACE score is the determination of not only toxic stress in our bodies, but also chronic disease such as hypertension, cancer, high cholesterol levels, and things like that. Sharon thinks they can all agree that stress is a silent killer and so we want to add this layer to our service delivery system of screenings, which is the adverse childhood experiences. It's also a huge initiative with our California Surgeon general, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris - it was a highly competitive grant. Sharon shared that another agency here in Merced that received the planning grant was Merced County Office of Education. Sharon will be joining in on the endeavors and supporting this work here in Merced County, with many other people as well.

XIV. Discussion on Community Outreach and Engagement Program

Sharon said that we are speaking a lot about COVID-19 and the community and different individuals living here. Sharon asked: How are we doing as it relates to Mental Health Services Act programs? Sharon also asked the council to write in the chat some of the current needs for outreach and engagement that they have run across. She also asked: How are we engaging the community during this time and what things do we need to do maybe to adapt and be more flexible to meet their needs.

XV. Program Presentations

Sharon Jones informed that we are looking at individuals who have not presented in terms to this committee. She mentioned that we would be reaching out to each of them to get those individuals on the agenda to present. A nice job has been done bringing everyone up to speed with what our programs are doing and how they're providing care in our community. She would like to continue this as well.

Patti Kishi, with NAMI Merced, asked about the department billboards that were put up and why they were not successful. Sharon said she would have to look into that information. Along with the billboards, Sharon mentioned that there are also digital ads that are popping up on social media in different places to get the word out that behavioral health is important and to reach out for help. Sharon said that for the next meeting there could be an agenda item where she could present on any information regarding billboards, how we outreach to the community, and social media.

XVI. Administrative Updates and Changes

No updates or changes reported.

XVII. Possibilities and Success Stories

Sharon Jones shared that Prevention and Early Intervention dollars were utilized to purchase a van that is starting to be used in our unserved and underserved communities. The van has started in the Le Grand community and it will also be used in collaboration with the Department of Workforce Investment where they will be reaching out to underserved communities and individuals that are referred to as working in terms of migrant work – they will be going out to see how they can support, help, and reduce stressors for families. The work has started and is at the early stages but there will be more to report out on that. There will possibly be reports at the Cultural Humility Committee regarding the needs of our underserved communities, or communities that need more support or further assistance based on what they feel they need.

Fernando asked if that would look like a promotora for outreach and engagement with the farmworkers. Sharon explained that it is under the Strengthening Families program umbrella; they function as community and development partners who are trying to utilize the help first model to set up sustainable resources for families and to reduce stressors in real time so that they don't end up in more severe treatment and care. The Strengthening Families programs are individuals who have lived experience in those communities – they have the cultural and linguistic competency and understanding of many of the cultures and traditions of the community. They also understand the stigma that often times comes with a lot of help-seeking, coping strategies and styles. Fernando also asked if it will mainly be used for outreach and engagement, and if it will also be used for transporting clients to their sessions. Sharon said that at this point there is not a part of it for transport, but will see how it evolves. The main thing is reducing stressors and building of protective factors for families. Also, helping families become aware of what resources there are to help them so that they could pass it on and we could build this network of knowing what is out there that can help them live better. In addition, reduce the toxic stress that we're going to be embarking up on with adverse toxic stress in the network of care. Sharon noted that there is much more to come.

Monica Adrian, Caring Kids, mentioned that they are in collaboration with the Merced County Department of Public Health

expanding their Parents as Teachers home visiting program. It's an evidence based home visiting program – they are now open to taking referrals for any families in Merced County who would like to participate. They can work with pregnant parents and parents who have children up through age kindergarten, including children with special health care needs, special needs, mental health or behavioral health challenges. Monica noted that she has put a brochure in the chat box and there's a link to the website where if you want to refer a family or family is interested they can complete that interest or referral form and it will go right to Monica. Right now they are opening up enrollment and they can serve an additional 80 families. She asked to please send families their way. Monica would be happy to help for the Parents as Teachers program if they give her a call. Sharon asked Monica to send the information to Maria Orozco to distribute to the group.

Marili Hernandez, with the Weaver Union School District shared a success story from Sierra Vista Child & Family Services. They have been in collaboration with them for a while now and this year was very challenging for all of their students and parents. Sierra Vista was able to provide parent support groups and workshops for the parents. Marili received a lot of positive feedback from the parents. Some of the things they shared with her were that they were really glad to talk to someone and to receive some ideas and strategies that could help their child at home such as: communication, stress, etc. Students were also provided with social skills virtual groups and they were all really excited to participate. There were a few times they had technical difficulties and they would email her for assistance so she would reach out to the case managers or clinicians attending. They were all really excited to join something where they could relate, share their ideas, be themselves, versus their Zoom classes which was more homework and a different setting. Marili noted that it was really helpful for their school community.

Jenna Nunes with Sierra Vista also shared that they are starting to do outreach for some stigma events; the year prior they were very successful at the high school levels reaching out to the students and providing that information in those events. They are working on some virtual stigma events, and possibly a week-long event, where they would be providing the same information to students on a virtual level – they are in collaboration right now with Gustine and Merced High. If anyone is interested or has contacts, please reach out to Jenna Nunes to get the word out and schedule some of those events.

Alyssa Castro shared a flyer via chat for the program that YLI (Youth Leadership Institute) has that works with the MHSA. In the program, youth 13-24 are able to join and participate. Specifically how they do MHSA work is supporting them in uplifting issues that queer youth face. Alyssa asked the council to please share the flyer. There are opportunities for professional and personal development, as well as the stipend.

Nancy Reding announced that GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) Merced is working with Merced County Office of Education and will be providing presentations and training for the staff in the school. Also, Merced LGBTQ Alliance is planning a downtown event in June – the mayor has agreed to a proclamation for naming June pride month, which is progressive for Merced. She shared that they used to get a week at the end of June. Nancy will keep the council updated. If anyone wants any information please contact Nancy; her contact information was provided via chat.

Sandra Sandoval, Public Health, announced that they will be having some stress classes next week. She will be sending the flyer to Maria Orozco to share with the group. This is open for anybody who would like to attend their stress class.

Siouxwee Vue, Hlub Hmong Center, shared that they will be having 2 virtual shows focusing on the Hmong community. The next one is scheduled for March 5th, and everyone is welcome to attend. They also have their Parent Champion Groups meeting continuously biweekly. She shared that they have also upgraded a new group, the Hmong Education Partnership – these are groups of Hmong educators who have come together to talk about economic systems within our community and with Hmong students.

Fernando noted that Joanna Castaneda posted her response on the chat regarding the vaccine question.

XVIII. Next Steps

Sharon informed about the need for a meeting change. Moving forward, the Ongoing Planning Council will be meeting the 4th Thursday of the month, instead of the 3rd Thursday of the month. This will also apply for the Cultural Humility, Health Equity, and Social Justice Committee.

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.