

# Summary

## Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

May 25, 2023

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department

Teleconference via Zoom

### Present:

Sharon Jones, Bacilia Mendez, Cindy Mattox, Nicole Duarte, Fernando Granados, Maria Colomer, Jesse Ornelas, Heydi Herrera, Iohana Tapia, Ye Thao, Katalina Zambrano, Vong Chang, Daniel Garibay, See Her, Tony Lor, Marilyn Mochel, Jenna Nunes, Ryan Albright, Derric Brown, Nou Chang, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Jaz Chima, Dee Espinoza, Heydi Herrera, Eric Olsen-Diehl, Cara Rupp, Carolyn Walter,

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

#### I. Call to Order / Roll Call

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Jose Chavez-Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2023, and Jenna Nunes 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 at this meeting.

#### IV. Notice to the Public

Jose with Golden Valley Health Center shared a reminder that it is Medi-Cal renewal time and those in the community should start that process.

See Her with Merced County Human Services Agency, shared that on June 9, 2023, there will be a homeless outreach event at the Central Presbyterian Church in Merced. See will share the flyer with Sharon Jones after this meeting.

#### V. Chair's Report

No report

#### VI. BHRS Report

BHRS is looking to build our workforce. The Children's System of Care campus located at 480 E 13<sup>th</sup> Street, is currently under renovation. The CUBE Transitional Age Youth Wellness Center is specifically getting upgraded to meet ADA compliance. We are working on expanding the Winton clinic as well. In addition, we are working to ensure we meet CalAIM requirements and getting adjusted to Credible, the new electronic health record. Lastly, the hope is to bring more clients to the Wellness Center to utilize our services and build protective factors for their lives.

#### VII. Presentation on MHSa Three Year Plan Fiscal Year 2023-2026

Sharon Jones gave a presentation on the MHSa Three Year Plan 2023-2026 which included information on the MHSa statute 30-day posting, upcoming public hearing, approved programs an overview of the proposed changes to come in the MHSa Three Year Plan Fiscal Year 2023-2026. The public hearing will be held on June 6, 2023, at the Behavioral Health Advisory Board at 5:15 PM. All stakeholders and members of the community are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. After the Behavioral Health Advisory Board public hearing, there will be an action to vote in which the plan is recommended to be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Once the plan is approved by the Board of Supervisors it then becomes the working three-year plan. From the Board of Supervisors, the plan will then move forward to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Current gaps as well as safety and risk factors were looked at when developing the plan. As we move forward with the MHSA modernization, we will be looking at all programs. We want all programs to be sustainable but also ensure that these high-risk areas are covered. In Merced County there is an ongoing need so we must be strategic and innovative with the funding that we do have.

**VIII. Focus Group Discussion Points**

There has been a lot of discussion in focus groups. What rose to the top in the most recent focus group is that there is not enough support in schools, particularly Los Banos. We do not have enough people to meet the demands of the emotionally vulnerable in the schools. We must ensure we close the gaps with what funding we do have. Other feedback has been on the need for Sexual assault support and advocacy as well as support for our cultural communities have been prevalent topics.

**IX. Highlights from May 24<sup>th</sup> May is Mental Health Month Event**

Thank you to everyone for attending and contributing to the May Mental Health Awareness Month Outreach Event. There were over four hundred attendees captured in terms of signature. There was a diverse group of attendees and resources given.

**X. Administrative Updates and Changes**

The new Director is Kimiko Vang. The new Assistant Director is Julianne Sims. The new Director of Administrative Services is Manjit Kaur. The new Compliance Officer is Adrian Angel. We are moving towards solidifying our workforce. There is ongoing recruitment for clinicians. We are additionally working on getting our Peer Support Specialists certified.

**XI. Announcements**

Cara Rupp announced that an LGBTQ+ group was started by a clinician and a dual diagnosis specialist. The first group meeting was held on May 24, 2023. A lot of clients signed up and staff are very excited.

**XII. Possibilities and Success Stories**

May is Mental Health Month Outreach Event was a success. There was collaboration and good energy. To our knowledge, this was the first time that the CEO and Assistant CEO of Merced County attended the event. There was a great value of dignity and respect for everyone in attendance.

NAMI will have interns this summer which will help with outreach services. The office has moved to a different office on G Street allowing a more physical presence for the community. NAMI is also expanding its Spanish programming. Marilyn Mochel can be contacted for any physical copies of flyers and small business cards for programming opportunities.

**XIII. Next Steps**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023.

**XIV. Adjournment**

9:55 AM