

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

June 22, 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, Iohana Tapia, Katalina Zambrano, Daniel Garibay, See Her, Marilyn Mochel, Jenna Nunes, Ryan Albright, Derric Brown, Jaz Chima, Dee Espinoza, May-Ci Xiong, Ye Thao, Jaz Chima, Ursula Vasquez, PIA Moua, Emily Diaz, Jenna Nunes, Sabrina Abong, Mai Ker Vue, Patti, Lizbeth Bravo, Jewel Wise, MistyRose Bautista, Monica Adrian, Conor Maloney, Jocabed Soto

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

Jenna Nunes made a motion to approve the minutes from May 25, 2023, and Marilyn Mochel 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

At the end of October or beginning of November, NAMI will be holding a multicultural symposium focused on Spanish speakers. The entire symposium will be held in Spanish. More information to come.

V. Chair's Report

Fernando encourages everyone to look over and become familiar with Governor Newsom's Transformation of Behavioral Health Services Reform. This document contains Senate bills that will affect our organizations and the work that we do.

VI. BHRS Report

BHRS is still working to get the Winton campus up to speed. There is currently remodeling happening at the Children System of Care offices. The mask mandate has been lifted and all offices are open. There will be a Medi-Cal audit in August. More trainings will be held at BHRS. Again, Kimiko Vang is Director and Julianne Sims is the Clinical Director. Sharon Mendonca's position has not been filled. We have our new electronic health record and are working towards CalAIM.

VII. MHSA Three Year Plan

The Three-Year Plan highlights every program and every action that is approved under MHSA funding. There is a quarterly report for data which comes together for either the Three-Year Plan or Annual Update Plan. The data is key to show how we are helping individuals with the MHSA funding.

VIII. Public Hearing

The public hearing was held on the first Tuesday of this month. Sharon gave a presentation regarding MHSA. Subject to the Brown Act the public was able to review the plan and speak on the plan. There was one question regarding the Youth CSU and Sharon was able to inform that individual that this is not funded by MHSA, but it is operated by Aspiranet.

IX. Action at Board of Supervisors

The Behavioral Health Board voted to move the Three-year Plan forward to the Board of Supervisors. This will be moved to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. The Three-Year Plan is for the fiscal year 2023-2026.

X. Three Year Plan Changes

The following are changes that are to be proposed. Turning Point, CARE Program funding is to be increased to expand and renovate office space for psychiatric purposes. CARE court was also listed as having future funding by MHSA. The Innovative Strategist Network will now be referred to as the Community Network Program for Adults and Community Network Program for Youth. A program is being proposed for the Southeast Asian Program with a specific focus on youth. The Wellness Center will remove six extra-help Peer Support positions. In place of those positions removed, there will be two full-time Peer Support positions added and one full-time Mental Health Worker position. Age restrictions for the CUBE have been changed to allow ages 16-25. The Westside Transitional Wellness Center will also remove the extra-help Peer Support position. In place of this position, a full-time Peer Support and a full-time Program Assistant position will be added. There will be an increase in funds for Caring Kids to build more capacity for ages 0-5. There will be an increase for the officer that currently works under the community based mental health program for youth. The Community Network Program for Youth will now be moved from innovation to PEI. Youth and Grief Trauma Team will now be referred to as Trauma and Grief Team (TAG). The workforce and education actions will be increased to a total of ten stipends to support building our workforce. Staff development will also be increased to encourage the building of new skills. Additionally, funds will also be transferred for capital facilities and technological needs.

XI. Discussion on Innovation Programs

Sharon asked the committee to share some innovative things we can add to the community.

Ursula-Would like to put more emphasis on the ADA community. Greater access to services for those with ADA needs.

Mai- Shared that she is a program assistant at the Hlub Hmong Center. They have a program called "Learning the Hmong Way". This program trains agencies to understand Hmong barriers and stigmas. They are currently partnered with three regional centers who consumers have a developmental or intellectual disability in the central valley. This would be something to implement more in Merced County for all cultures. They are currently seeking Hmong parents that have children with special needs. The parents are also trained to be coaches to educate agencies. The Hlub Hmong Center is located at 936 W 18th Street. Mai shared the contact information for program leads Stacy Chang (schang@hclubmongcenter.org) and Yang Vang (yvang@hclubmongcenter.org).

Jesse-Suggested a campaign or programs dedicated to the trauma that young people have from community violence. Also shared that 70% of those on probation in Merced County are in the age group 18-24. More collaboration to tackle these statistics would be beneficial. The philosophy "La Cultura Cura" (The Culture Cures) would also be beneficial to implement. Events and functions to reintroduce the Latin/Hispanic about their own culture. There are evidence-based practices that show when individuals are retaught about their ways, it helps with addressing trauma and substance use disorder.

Ursula-In agreeance with Jesse, shared that a lot of individuals that have the stigma do not know they have disabilities, they are undiagnosed. Even if perceived disability they should have ADA rights. Also, there has been a lot of tagging related to gang wars. It wouldn't be very expensive to take tagging and translate that into a skill to create something nondestructive.

Jesse- Additionally shared that there are many cohorts occurring at Juvenile Hall as well as the county.

MistyRose- Small community homes for the homeless community would be amazing.

XII. MHSA Modernization

Governor Newsom's Transformation of Behavioral Health Services is the first reform in nearly two decades since voters passed the Mental Health Services Act in 2004. This is a major effort to pass a bond for 10,000 new clinic placement and homes. There is a focus on housing with accountability for people with mental health needs, including veterans and unhoused people. The package focuses on five solutions to transform California's behavioral health system, through housing and accountability and reform with results.

Additionally, SB 326 would modernize and reform the Mental Health Services Act, which was passed as Proposition 63 by voters in 2004. This legislation would expand services to include treatment for those with substance use disorders. It is

proposed to be broken down as follows: 30% for Housing Interventions, 35% for Full Service Partnerships programs, 30% for Behavioral Health Services and Supports, and 5% for Prevention. AB 531 is a \$4.68 billion general obligation bond to build 10,000 new clinic beds and homes that would be on the March 2024 ballot. This would be the single largest expansion of California's continuum of behavioral health treatment and residential settings. Combined, these two bills will build out the State's capacity to provide behavioral health care and housing with strengthened accountability for results, while creating good jobs.

XIII. Administrative Update and Changes

The position for Assistant Director, which was previously held by Sharon Mendonca will soon be posted. There is an upcoming Med-Cal and Marie Green audit. Staffing is beginning to settle in. There have been interviews held for Program Manger as Tony Ryland has retired.

XIV. Announcements

Sharon-There is an upcoming holistic fair that we will be participating in, more information can be shared as it becomes available.

Pia-Golden Vally Health Center's clinic in Los Banos is currently closed due to remodeling. The next closest clinic is Dos Palos, they are open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. The next clinic would be in Newman, Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00pm.

XV. Possibilities and Success Stories

MistyRose- Inquired if anyone has knowledge or a contact for someone who could train staff on immigration services. Such as differences between DACA, The Dream Act, resources available. If anyone has knowledge of someone who can facilitate this MistyRose can be reached at mbautista@aspiranet.org.

XVI. Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2023.

Future meetings can include some more background information on new programs to catch everyone up to speed. Also a update from officers in schools. The innovative strategists' report will also be on the next agenda.

XVII. Adjournment

9:58 AM