

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

July 27, 2023
9:00 am – 10:00 am
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
Conference Center Room C219

Present:

Sharon Jones, Cindy Mattox, Nicole Duarte, Fernando Granados, Monica Adrian, Alma Avila, Chang Vong, Kit Chang, Khi Moua, PIA Moua, Jenna Nunes, Lanetta Smyth, Ye Thao, Ursula Vasquez, Mai Vue Ker, May-Ci Xiong

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

Monica Adrian made a motion to approve the minutes from June 22, 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

There are no notices to the public.

V. Chair's Report

Fernando encourages everyone to take some time to go over CalAIM guidelines. There are a lot of changes occurring and different ways that services are going to be delivered and dispersed. Everyone should become familiar with CalAIM and the structure that it entails.

VI. BHRS Report

Sharon shared that the most pressing thing we are working on currently is the Triennial Medi-Cal Audit. We have done a lot of hiring to work to get people into key places. Last week interviews were held to fill Sharon Mendonca's position of the Assistant Director of Administration. We are refining our electronic health record system. We are working on a lot of workforce programs and internships. I will let May-Ci speak on that now.

May-Ci reported that she is currently working on clinical supervision programs, internships, staff development, and training components. Currently, we will have twenty internships in the fall, this being the most we have had in the last ten years. We will be bringing in UC Merced students as well as MSW students from CSU Stanislaus and other universities. The goal is to try and grow the workforce of our department. Another goal is to bring in outside trainers to the county. We are taking training suggestions so keep on the lookout for future training. Training wise we are also looking at recovery models and eating disorder-based training. There are three conferences that we hope to hold: a BHRS career pathway conference, a multicultural provider conference, and an AAPI conference.

VII. Next MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2027-2025

The plan of correction has been accepted for the MHSA audit and everything has been closed out. We are getting ready to kick off focus groups and key informant interviews for our annual update. FY 2024-2025.

VIII. Presentation on Innovation Project: Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) Final Report

Lanetta Smyth, Adult System of Care (ASOC) Division Director, presented the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) cumulative evaluation findings from October 2018-February 2023. The ISN is a short-term (30 days) service coordination program wherein interdisciplinary teams of strategists work with consumers to navigate barriers to accessing care, identify individual needs and recovery goals, and facilitate linkage to BHRS partners and community resources. The ISN is divided into adult and youth teams. Lanetta explained the ISN program referral process. This process is the following: referral, referral review, initial outreach, intake & assessment, ISN services then service linkage.

There were 494 referrals to ISN and 397 referrals to ISN-Y. 6,583 services were provided to ISN and 2,760 services were provided to ISN-Y. There was a 76% enrollment length in ISN for 30 days and 67% enrolled in ISN-Y for over 30 days. 316 ISN consumers were linked to services and 250 ISN-Y consumers were linked to services. 94% of ISN consumers agreed or strongly agreed that they have other choices. They would still get services from ISN. 71% engaged in BHRS services after exit and 61% decreased crisis service utilization. 100% of ISN-Y consumers rated the overall quality of services as excellent. 100% of ISN-Y said the staff was always or usually sensitive to their family's cultural background. 100% of ISN-Y consumers agreed or strongly agreed that ISN-Y helped them with the things they needed. 63% of ISN-Y consumers were connected to community resources or services.

Client engagement, family involvement, intensive case management, dedicated staff, partnership-building, and increased outreach worked well. Short enrollment period, staff turnover, and COVID-19 were challenges that the ISN program faced. ISN will continue with other MHSA funding streams. It should be noted that this program is also transitioning to the name Community Network Program (CNP). With the new funding component CSS, there will be program expansion: longer enrollment periods (60 days), broadened eligibility criteria, incorporation of skills building, and implementation of longer interventions. ISN-Y put out a request for proposals (RFP) in Spring 2023.

IX. Presentation on Innovation Project: Transformational Equity Restart Program (Restart) – Year 1

This presentation is postponed due to time constraints.

X. MHSA Modernization Update

There is a ballot initiative that is slated for March 2024 for what is called the modernization of the Mental Health Services Act. The Mental Health Services Act would be changed to the Behavioral Health Services Act. The components and percentages are changing as well. 30% for Housing, 35% for full-service partnerships, 35% for behavioral services and support, and then 5% for universal prevention.

XI. Administrative Update and Changes

Postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

XII. Announcements

Postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

XIII. Possibilities and Success Stories

The MHSA audit has been successful. Suicide Prevention month is approaching in September. Sharon encourages individuals to prepare activities and distribute information regarding suicide prevention.

XIV. Next Steps

Evaluate the time for the next meeting and see if it is necessary to extend the meeting.

XV. Adjournment

10:00 AM