

# Summary

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

September 28, 2023

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department  
Conference Center Room C207

### Present:

Sharon Jones, Cindy Mattox, Bacilia Mendez, Nicole Duarte, Fernando Granados, Alma Avila, Jose Chavez- Diaz, Kit Chang, Jaz Chima, Tony Lor, Eve Clinton, Tanya Riley, Jenna Nunes, Jessica Herrington, Marilyn Mochel, Lizbeth Bravo, Kimberlee Bledsoe, Mark Gutierrez, Ye Thao, Monia Adrian, Norbela Luis, Shay Gassaway, Jesse Ornelas, Natalie Leal, Richard Lubian

### 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 August 24, 2023, and Kit Chang 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-** Reminding everyone to encourage the community to keep an eye out for Medi-Cal renewals in the mail. GVHC is actively going to different health centers in the community and reminding patients. Medi-Cal must be updated annually now; the previously updated guidelines put in place during COVID-19 are no longer relevant.

#### V. Chair's Report

**Fernando-** As the holiday season approaches, it is encouraged that everyone network and support one another in events within the community.

#### VI. BHRS Report

**Sharon-** Top Leadership is in place now. Director Kimiko Vang, Assistant Clinical Director Julianne Sims, Assistant Director of Administration Alexandra Pierce. May-Ci Xiong has been promoted to Division Director of Children's System of Care. Lanetta Smyth is the Adult System of Care Director. Currently working on CalAIM and the different initiatives coming from the state. The Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Committee is preparing another external quality review in November. We are continuing to upload and integrate Anasazi with the new EHR Credible.

#### VII. Presentation by Resources Development Associate (RDA) on the Transformational Equity Restart Program (Restart) 2022-2023 Year 1 Evaluation Report

Restart launched in March 2022 with MHSa Innovation Funding. This program utilizes a "no wrong door" approach to provide outpatient treatment and support services for adults involved in the legal and behavioral health systems. Although referrals and entry into BHRS have been historically facilitated through the BHRS Access Team, Restart has created new pathways for clients to be connected through services. Primary referral pathways include the ACCESS Team, Central Intake, JCID, Legal System Partners (Probation, Courts), and Outpatient Programs.

Restart implementation has become a successfully established program within its first year. There are 246 total program referrals and 186 total people enrolled in the program. 80% of clients were contacted within 1 week of referral and 69% of clients were connected to services within 2 weeks of referral. 59% of referrals came from Legal System Partners and 30% of

referrals came from BHRS clinicians and programs. Regarding enrollment status, 35% of referrals remained “open to services” and 34% of referrals were “unavailable for further services”. Key service types include case management (70%), assessments (54%) and individual therapy (51%). Looking at a few client characteristics 89% are in the 26-59 age group. 62% are on probation and 45% reported they were unemployed.

The restart program has improved client's lives with respect to mental health, substance use, social functioning, and quality of life. Clients have shared that they feel more stable and less likely to return to jail/prison or to return to using substances.

#### **VIII. Overview of MHSA Suicide Prevention Outreach Event on 09/20/2023**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the MHSA Suicide Prevention Outreach Event. This event is very important because we need as many preventative resources as possible and protective factors as possible in the community. Different vendors attended, information was shared, and information was given to the community. This was a very successful day to communicate the needs of the community and inform everyone again of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

#### **IX. Update on the MHSA Modernization**

Senate Bill 326 will be on the ballot in March 2024. One thing proposed is the change of the name from the Mental Health Services Act to the Behavioral Health Services Act. It is also proposed a shift in funding areas within the programs. Additionally, the State would take an additional 5% for Administration. With this modernization, the Mental Health Services Act would also be inclusive of substance use treatment. 51% of Behavioral Health Services and Support funding would need to go to early intervention. Everyone should become aware of this modernization because it will include a lot of stakeholder involvement and conversations. More information is to come, as the information is shared it will also be shared with all stakeholders. This will be listed as Prop 1 on the ballot in March 2024.

#### **X. Update on the MHSA Community Program Planning Process for Annual Update 2024-2025**

The community planning process is going well. In the last community planning process for the three-year plan, we had twenty focus groups. What is currently rising to the top for community needs is more preventative resources. There is a need for more safe spaces for people to go to before requiring advanced treatment. We need more bridges within the community. For example, the MCOE Caring Kids playgroup is a playgroup for children but if a parent attends and needs services then the linkage can be done. This group is a safety net within the community because they are in different locations and natural settings. It is also brought up that we lack central resource centers within the community, there are too many barriers. If anyone would like to set up a focus group, please contact Nicole Duarte so that we can continue to collect feedback.

#### **XI. Administration Update and Changes**

Key staff are in positions now as previously mentioned in the BHRS Report.

#### **XII. Announcements**

Marilyn- Notice to any organizations in behavioral health that provide services in Los Banos Westside there will be a conference on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Spanish. This is only for Spanish speakers on the Westside. The goal is to let them know of any services that are available to Spanish speakers in that area. Please reach out to me for collaboration. One request from the community is for information on how to address behavioral health concerns for children and adolescents. We will be focusing on preserving culture and mental wellness. This will be at Creekside Junior High and childcare will be provided. The flyer is currently being developed. This event is first come first serve for 75 adults. Any organizations that provide services in Spanish on the Westside are invited to table.

#### **XIII. Possibilities and Success Stories**

**Jesse**-Youth Leadership Institute will be having an art show on Indigenous People's Day on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Bob Hart's Square in Merced from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, an all-community alter will be held for Dia De Los Muertos on the soccer field at McNamara Park in Merced. Lastly, the Youth Leadership Institute here in Merced will be launching a new suicide prevention media program. Funding was given by the Sierra Health Foundation. This will be a two-year program where young people will be creating a council, doing research, and putting out different forms of media to communicate mental health and give access to resources to prevent suicide. Flyers will be out soon.

#### **XIV. Next Steps**

**XV. Adjournment**  
10:08 AM