

# Summary

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

October 15, 2020

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department  
Teleconference via Zoom

### Present:

Sharon Jones, Fernando Granados, Monica Adrian, Micki Archuleta, Wendy Campbell, Joanna Castaneda, Cesar Garcia, Caitlin Haygood, See Her, Heydi Herrera, Patti Kishi, Cindy Mattox, Rebecca McMullen, Sharon Mendonca, Marilyn Mochel, Ismael Munoz, Jenna Nunes, Jesse Ornelas, Maria Orozco, Rocio Ortega, Nancy Reding, Ralph Silva Rodriguez, Anna Santos, Ye Thao, Cari Urquiza, Griselda Vasquez, Jennifer Xiong

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

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

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for September 17, 2020 was motioned /seconded (Nancy Reding / 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

No notices to the public.

#### V. Chair's Report

No Report. Fernando reminded everyone that Merced is on red tier now. He noted that this may help some individuals but may cause more anxiety in others. He suggested being mindful and checking in with each other. Fernando also reminded the council to make sure to vote.

#### VI. Director's Report

No report. The director was unable to attend the meeting. Sharon Jones will brief the director on any questions/concerns.

#### VII. Program Presentation: Dignity Health - Connected Community Network Merced

Cesar Garcia, Dignity Health presented a PowerPoint on the Merced Connected Community Network. The PowerPoint provided an overview of the program, why it is needed, how it works, Unite Us capabilities, as well as information on how to schedule Unite Us Demo presentations.

Ismael Munoz, Community Initiatives for Collective Impact, referred to slide #4 of the PowerPoint where Cesar described the different community partners that help track these vulnerable people and citizens in our county. Ismael asked if there was a possibility for the school system to be part of that to help keep track of vulnerable citizens, being that you have the necessary protections from HIPAA.

Cesar responded yes, and explained that they are in conversation with some individuals from Merced Union High School District and the Merced City School District. The goal is to bring them on board, and shared that the conversation will continue this coming week. Cesar added that it is a huge benefit, especially if we think of the impacts. Children are being totally impacted with the lack of resources and with what parents are experiencing during this pandemic.

Jenna Nunes, Sierra Vista, commented that they are part of the network and has definitely been very beneficial. They utilize it a lot with clients where even the clinicians are stuck not knowing where to refer somebody, or not knowing what services are out there. They found a lot of services that they didn't even know existed. It has been very helpful, and they have had some successful referrals. Jenna added that they are definitely enjoying being a part of the network. Monica

Adrian, Caring Kids, asked Jenna about some of the services that she didn't know existed. Jenna responded that they found a lot of housing services and were able to connect to their support groups and transportations services. Jenna shared that Sierra Vista has a Beacon contract with transportation included. They were able to find different pathways for clients at low cost or no cost.

Cesar thanked Jenna for her comment and noted that they are always working on onboarding the community partners that actually work with the members, that way it makes it more effective for them. They also include those who are not members so that the platform works as a resource system. It is different referring someone who is not part of the network, but it is possible. Cesar added that you get to see the journey of the first time they attended and were serviced, as opposed to not knowing if they received services.

Jennifer Xiong, Hlub Hmong Center, asked when we talk about vulnerable populations, what are some of the ethnic data for the Hmong community. She noted that they have struggled to obtain accurate ethnic data, not just in the Hmong community but in a few other communities as well. Cesar explained that the system is able to provide reports about the people they are serving and the population. He said that once you see the demo, it becomes more obvious as it calculates all of these things for you; ethnicity is one of those things. Jennifer confirmed if the system will allow calculating the ethnic group for that particular client that you're serving. Cesar further explained that a lot of the fields are not required so it will only use the information entered. In addition, the system also has an assessment feature where you ask the client questions and get to see what needs they have. The more information the network enters, the more robust information and statistics it will give. If Jennifer would like to attend the demo, Cesar shared that there's opportunity for questions. Fernando Granados asked that the council reach out to Cesar Garcia for any additional questions.

#### **VIII. MHSA Three Year Plan**

Sharon presented a PowerPoint on the Mental Health Services Act three year plan. The PowerPoint included a brief overview on Mental Health Services Act, stakeholder feedback, MHSA programs, updates, and allowed time for questions. Sharon asked the council to review the MHSA three year plan for any information after the questions.

Nancy Reding noted that Sharon mentioned about a new extended request for proposal for the LGBTQ+, but did not announce how much money will be available for the RFP. She asked if it will only be for one RFP, as far as one area, or is it generally the LGBTQ+. Sharon explained that it is still in development, but it is her understanding that there will be one RFP and the RFP will be written in a way to encourage collaborations with multiple partners. The funding amount has not really been determined yet and as resources allow, but it will be an action approved under this plan so that we can move forward with the RFP. As Nancy had suggested two years ago, she suggested having an identified LGBTQ person on the team that is reviewing these RFPs. Nancy volunteered again to be that person. Sharon assured that this would be documented. In terms of the amount of funding, as funding allow, it will be at least \$50,000; Sharon will clarify that number with Nancy. Nancy asked about when they will know that the RFP are completed, as far as the request. Sharon explained that right now they have to get the three year plan to the Board of Supervisors which will come after the public hearing on Tuesday. Once they sign off on it then they could start the work on the RFP. Nancy noted that she would appreciate being notified about the RFP to make sure there are people applying for those. Sharon assured that Nancy's name will be given to our purchasing and contracting department.

Sharon noted that the document has been posted for 30 days, by regulation and law. She asked the council to please read the document.

Monica Adrian mentioned that early on in the fiscal year letters were sent to a number of the contractors amending the length of their contracts, and asked how that will be worked out. Sharon responded that contracts right now will be approved for roughly a year moving forward, and then we will take it year by year. There have been changes in the contracts department with staffing and so they are in a building phase. They are building back up in terms of getting in alignment with contracts. Jennifer Jones is now over the contracts department and supervises the analysts who work in that core area. If anyone has any questions or need clarification, they can email Sharon and she will try to give best answer with the best information she has in the moment.

Nancy Reding noted that the only LGBTQ served are youth CUBE and NAMI. She would hope that the RFP would be reaching out to those that are 30 to 50, and the 50+ group. Sharon clarified that there are other programs that provide

services to our LGBTQ+ community such as the TIP program and other programs within our BHRS system. Sharon said that this will be documented as it is very important.

**IX. Behavioral Health Board Public Hearing**

Sharon Jones encouraged everyone to attend the Behavioral Health Board public hearing on Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00 PM. Information will be sent out on how to access the public hearing, either via Zoom or Blue Jeans.

**X. Performance Based Contracting**

Sharon informed that there will be a plan and more discussion on what we are referring to as service based contracting or performance based contracting.

**XI. Virtual Trainings**

Sharon has started facilitating more Suicide Prevention and Mandated Reporter trainings. She will be having an Inclusion and Diversity training, as well as a Cultural Competence training in November. Sharon has also started doing workshops again at The Grove and Gateway Terraces.

**XII. Support for Families**

Sharon encouraged everyone to reach out to families to provide support and care.

**XIII. Peer Support Services**

The peer support specialist bill was signed by the governor. We will be able to move forward with getting the peer support specialists that we have, trained in curriculum and certified. They will be able to work with people and also bill medical. This will be a career pathway for people. More information is to come.

**XIV. Administrative Updates and Change**

No administrative updates and changes.

**XV. Possibilities and Success Stories**

No possibilities and success stories.

**XVI. Next Steps**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020.

**XVII. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 9:57am