

Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Local Mental Health Board Mental Health Director's Report March 28, 2016

Medical Director

Dr. Leigh Harrington is a Yolo County resident, is bilingual in Spanish, and has 4 years full time experience working in our department. Dr. Harrington is a former UCD staff physician and currently serves on the Voluntary Clinical Faculty. It is one of our strategic goals to have a closer collaboration with UC Davis, and having Dr. Harrington's connections as she serves as our Medical Director will facilitate that collaboration. Dr. Harrington studied Health Services Administration and holds a master's degree in this field, as well as Public Health. She will be able to bring experience in managerial science, problem solving, epidemiology, public health, and systems understanding to our department. Dr. Harrington has had a private practice in Davis since 2011, establishing ties and connections in the area as a result. She is a trusted leader: leading training groups for therapists of varying backgrounds since 2010, including county employees, serving as chief resident at Stanford where she was voted Resident of the Year by her superiors. We are thrilled to have such a qualified Medical Director join our team and look forward to all we can accomplish together.

Partnership Healthplan of California

Yolo County was awarded \$499,000 over the next two years for our proposed Bridge to Health and Housing project. [See attached press release.](#)

Cooperative Agreements Benefitting Homeless Individuals

Yolo County Applied to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for this grant opportunity. Our proposed project, Extended Hope, aims to serve approximately 75 people experiencing homelessness and co-occurring disorders (CODs) each year. The project will advance client recovery through a two-year integrated treatment approach that focuses on five key areas: (1) housing stability, (2) behavioral and physical health, (3) self-sufficiency, (4) criminal justice involvement, and (5) purpose and community.

Research indicates that CODs can play a significant role in homelessness. Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that higher percentages of people with CODs experience homelessness. In Yolo County, a local assessment of the largest homeless encampment found that 49% of the residents had CODs. The reverberating effects of homelessness can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services. In an effort to bridge this service gap, Extended Hope will consist of three major components: Identification, Assessment and Triage, Intensive Case Management and Treatment, and Housing Navigation and Permanent Placement.

Care Coordination Learning Collaborative

We were accepted to participate in California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions' Care Coordination Learning Collaborative. Several counties are participating with CIBHS staff provide guidance along this way around quality improvement strategies and approaches. We will be focusing on our Older Adult clients served by mental health and struggling with chronic physical health conditions.

Community Intervention Program

On March 4, the department met with representatives from Turning Point and our local law enforcement agencies. We discussed what was going well with the program as well as areas for improvement. The hospitals did not attend and we are following up with them to discuss the program.

Stepping Up Summit

Yolo County has been invited to participate in the National Stepping Up Summit in Washington DC, April 17-19. The Yolo County Team will include Supervisor Provenza, Captain Vaughn, Mashan Wolfe and Karen Larsen. The Stepping Up Initiative is a nationwide movement to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. Stepping Up asks communities to come together to develop an action plan that can be used to achieve measurable impact in local criminal justice systems. Specifically, the number of people with mental illness in U.S. jails has reached crisis levels with many jails having more people with mental illness than psychiatric hospitals. We were honored to be chosen to participate in this Summit as there were an overwhelming number of applicants and the process was extremely competitive.

Continuum of Care Funding

On March 8, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$1.6 billion of grants for local homeless programs including \$400,000 for Yolo County. The “Tier 1 Continuum of Care” grants announced support the Obama Administration’s efforts to end homelessness by providing critically needed housing and support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The funding Yolo County received is almost entirely dedicated to Permanent Supportive Housing, a dramatic shift from years past when funding largely supported transitional housing projects. Later this spring HUD will award approximately \$300 million in “Tier 2” grants. Yolo County has applied for an additional \$122,000 in this tier.

HHSA Integration

The HHSA continues to focus on integrating branch staff and programs. Co-location and space planning is a large component of this with many moves are currently underway. We expect to be completely moved by the turn of the fiscal year. The Bauer Building is slated to house the Adult and Aging Branch, Child, Youth and Family Branch, as well as the Director’s Office. A recent strategic planning retreat was organized and attended by HHSA executive leadership members. Branches are in the process of educating each other on what programs and teams do and are looking for meaningful ways to work together to support the community and communicate with community partners.

Jail/Juvenile Detention Facility Medical and Behavioral Health Services

In December, the County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide Medical and Behavioral Health Services for detainees of the jail and juvenile detention facilities. After a process of proposal review that included representatives from the Sheriff, Probation, County Administrator and HHSA departments, a consensus recommendation was reached regarding the Jail/Juvenile Detention Facility Medical and Behavioral Health Services proposals. On March 9, HHSA issued an intent to award notification to CFMG, the current contractor. Next steps are to develop, review and finalize the draft contracts. We anticipate bringing this item for BOS review and approval on April 26.



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Receives Grant to Assist Medically Vulnerable Homeless

(Woodland, CA) – Partnership HealthPlan of California has awarded the Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency \$499,125 to improve the health and well-being of medically vulnerable people experiencing homelessness through the Bridge to Health & Housing project.

The Bridge to Health & Housing project is a collaborative effort between Yolo County, Fourth & Hope, Sutter Davis Hospital, Yolo Community Care Continuum and Woodland Memorial Hospital which will provide outreach, intensive case management and housing navigation for homeless persons with an acute or chronic health condition or substance use disorder. The project will feature a 24-hour response to Yolo County emergency rooms in cases involving frequent utilizers who are homeless, ensuring they are appropriately assessed and linked with services and shelter upon discharge.

This two-year grant award is part of Partnership HealthPlan's Social Determinants of Health Initiative which aims to remove barriers that prevent access to quality health care.

Yolo County's proposal was based on local data showing a significant service gap for people experiencing homelessness who are medically vulnerable. For example, Dignity Health reports 545 visits from 235 homeless individuals in their Woodland Memorial Hospital emergency room between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015, with some patients having over 20 visits in the year. Additionally, the most recent homeless count found 74% of the 498 people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County reported having at least one serious health condition.

The two-year Bridge to Health & Housing project aims to accomplish three goals, including:

1. Identifying the most medically vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County.
2. Diverting people experiencing homelessness with medical issues from the local emergency rooms into appropriate primary care settings.
3. Improving the overall well-being of medically vulnerable people experiencing homelessness by targeting four social determinants of health: housing stability; physical health; behavioral health and self-sufficiency.

For more information about Yolo County's Homeless Services, visit the Homeless Services webpage under the Health & Human Services menu at www.yolocounty.org.

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