

**Yolo County Local Mental Health Board  
Chair's Report  
May 22, 2017**

**1. Health Council**

The Health Council met on May 11, 2017, chaired by Michael Wilkes. The topics about which the LMHB is most interested included the following:

- A. Starting up a crisis resource system to improve matches with case management for patients to receive treatment.
- B. Changes in healthcare funding at the federal level are anticipated. County medical services plan changes for indigent care now include Yolo County as a part of 34 other counties in providing services. This represents a step backward due to the decrease in services available through this system. HSSA cost shift will continue.
- C. Norovirus cases in Yolo County are now more than 2,000. An individual is contagious from the day before they are symptomatic to 48 hours after their symptoms end. This is a highly contagious disease. Medical Director Ron Chapman referred to this as an epidemic in our schools and in our county.

**2. The Cultural Competence Committee and the LGBTQ+ Work Group**

Several months ago, HSSA initiated a Cultural Competence Committee headed by Thesesa Smith, LCSW. The purpose of this committee was to recognize the growth the Agency has to make in effectively identifying and treating a variety of ethnic, cultural, and other groups in Yolo County. The Committee is adding to its membership representatives who can guide the group toward an appropriate approach in mental health care in Yolo County.

As part of these activities, an LGBTQ+ workgroup began. Members are working to identify the populations in this particular community who are in need of mental health services, and creating language and an environment which is most conducive toward healing. Developing out of these discussions is the recognition that the LGBTQ+ community could likely use a resource center through which they can acquire referrals for services and build community. The workgroup is now beginning a survey to determine which services those who identify as a part of the LGBTQ+ community request most often.

**3. Criminal Justice Continuum of Care Work Group**

"In the Yolo County 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, under the Safe Communities goal, is a focus area that calls for the development of a 'coordinated continuum of care ranging from prevention through intensive services.' To achieve this purpose, a continuum of Care (CoC) Work Group was formed in early 2017 which includes representation from the law and justice departments (District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, and Probation). Health and Human Services Agency, District 4 Supervisor, and the County Administrator's Office. The CoC Work Group has identified three key strategies to serve their Strategic Plan directive of creating a continuum of care:

1. Improve service provision that assists in preventing adults from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system.
2. Stepping Up Initiative directive: Reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails;
3. Increase information sharing and coordination among law and just departments and service/community providers to improve services, enhance outcomes and reduce duplication of effort."

Subcommittees have been developed to address issues at every step of an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, from initial intake to release after incarceration or probation. The foci of these subcommittees are referred to as intercepts along the continuum of contact. We shall see issues identified as we map the specific activities of the individual along the way.

**LMHB involved so far include:** Tom Waltz, who is chairing Intercept 1; June Forbes, as the president of NAMI; and James Glica-Hernandez, as the chair of LMHB are also participating in Intercept 1. HHS executive director, Karen Larsen, and management and staff members, Sandra Sigris, Ian Evans, Harjit Gill, and Julie Freitas, all participate in various intercept subcommittees of this project.