

Mental Health Director's Report

August 28, 2017

Personnel – Since our last meeting there have been several exciting personnel changes. Samantha Fusselman has been appointed Deputy Mental Health Director, Ian Evans has been appointed Alcohol and Drug Administrator and we hired Mimi Hall as our new Public Health Director. Unfortunately, the candidate we had for our full time psychiatry position didn't work out. The good news is we have increased our HPSA score dramatically which allows psychiatry candidates to get loan repayment, and we are working with a recruiter and locum tenens provider.

Grant Opportunities –We submitted a grant proposal in collaboration with the cities of West Sacramento, Woodland and Davis to Partnership Healthplan of California for housing units in Yolo County to address homelessness. Yolo County is eligible for just over \$2 million. Yolo County also received a grant from DHCS for Narcan distribution to be given in cases of overdose. The Naloxone Grant Program strives to reduce the number of fatal overdoses in California from opioid drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by increasing access to the life-saving drug Naloxone. The grant allows the local public health department to provide free doses of Naloxone to local providers to keep on site and administer in the event of a potential overdose. Possible locations where the drug can be distributed include: harm reduction/syringe exchange programs, substance use disorder treatment providers, homeless programs, jails, emergency services providers, law enforcement and others. Thus far, several programs have expressed interest in receiving some of the Naloxone doses at their sites, including the Yolo County Library, CommuniCare Health Centers and the County Jail. Staff will be working over the next few months to identify additional community-based sites where Naloxone can be administered, with an emphasis on engaging programs that would not otherwise have access to this life-saving drug.

RDA & MHSOAC - To address the concerns regarding a possible conflict of interest between Resource Development Associates (RDA) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Committee (MHSOAC). According to the Local Mental Health Board Minutes and Mental Health Director's Report from 12/05/16, "HHSO has looked into the concerns regarding the plan consultants, Research Development Associates (RDA) and a potential conflict. RDA's Roberta Chambers clarified that RDA did in fact enter into a contract with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to evaluate community planning processes, but this work was completed prior to Yolo MHSO's last 3 year planning process. At the time of the evaluation, RDA was not performing community planning for counties, but had earlier worked with one county. The issue of conflict of interest was discussed with the MHSOAC before the contract was finalized. In the end, RDA did research for the MHSOAC on best practices in community planning, which was included in their report, and of course, potentially benefits all counties (including those who work with RDA). RDA facilitated community planning with 3 counties last year, but only one this year—Yolo. The MHSOAC evaluation in question was completed well over 3 years ago and did not evaluate work RDA had done for Yolo County."

Prop 47- Proposition 47, also called the Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act, is a voter-approved initiative to focus prison spending on violent and serious offenses, to maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime, and to invest the savings generated from this act into prevention and support

programs. HHSa, in collaboration with the District Attorney’s Office, Probation Department and Public Defender’s Office will utilize \$6 million over a 3-year period to provide wraparound services for individuals who are eligible for a criminal justice diversion program and provide them with intensive case management, employment assistance, civil legal assistance and permanent housing assistance for those with a history of mental health issues and/or substance use disorders. HHSa’s Steps to Success Program is outlined [HERE](#).

RFP updates-

MHSA

Program	Projected Contract Date	Awarded To
Housing and Supportive Services	10/1/2017	Turning Point
Latino Outreach/MH Promotores	10/1/2017	CommuniCare & RISE
Access & Linkage -- School Rural El School Mentorship/Strengths Rural	10/1/2017	Pending
Navigation Center	11/1/2017	Pending
Peer Family-Led Support Services- Scope #1 TAY Speakers Bureau - Scope #2	11/1/2017	Pending

Facilities- Staff have been working closely with an architect to figure out configuration options for our Davis site. We will have employment and eligibility services and the mental health services will move closer to the new wellness center at the site. We continue to work with a realtor to find locations for a residential treatment facility and navigation center.

SB82 update- We have learned that the new round of SB82 funding to be released will not support continued funding of our existing CIP program.

Public Guardian Update - We have officially hired a third conservatorship officer, Jessica Gojkovich. Jessica has been working in the PG’s office across the past several months, on loan from the Service Centers, and has now accepted the ongoing Conservatorship Officer position. Jessica brings excellent and varied experience having worked in both the children and adult systems of care. In addition, she is in the final months of school to obtain her Master’s Degree in Social Work.

Yolo Safety Net- By the numbers... See regional breakdowns [HERE](#).

Innovation Plans- On July 27, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission approved both MHSa Innovation Plans, including the Board & Care Study Project and the First Responders Initiative.

- The First Responders Initiative will expand the local crisis management continuum by improving collaboration and information sharing between emergency responders, mental health providers and consumers. The Initiative will mitigate unnecessary hospitalization and incarceration of people experiencing a mental health crisis. The project was awarded \$1,725,139 over three years and includes opening a Mental Health Urgent Care with integrated County and local hospital staffing.
- The Board & Care Study Project will be a collaboration between multiple countywide stakeholders to gather information and gain an understanding of the challenges of providing an appropriate level of housing assistance and support for adult consumers with the most intense mental health service needs. This project was awarded \$89,125 for one year. Yolo's Innovation information gathered will be provided to the California Mental Health Planning Council, who is set to initiate a parallel statewide project in coming months.