

## Mental Health Director's Report

January 22, 2018

**Child Homicides** –Our County has had six child homicides, three separate incidents, over the past three months. All of these incidents have happened at the hands of the children's fathers. Our agency is striving to support those affected by these tragedies and searching for answers about how to prevent future tragedies.

**CIP/SB82 update-** We are pursuing three initiatives targeting a renewed After Hours Crisis Response system. First, we issued a Request for Proposals for our After Hours Crisis telephone line and After Hours in-person response to Emergency Departments and Law Enforcement calls. Proposals are due February 1<sup>st</sup>, and we plan to have a new contractor/service in place no later than May. Second, we have submitted an Intent to Propose to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)'s Request for Applications (RFA) to provide Crisis Response for Transition Age Youth (ages 16 - 25). Third, another RFA is pending from MHSOAC for Crisis Response for children up through age 15 and we intend to apply. Both of the MHSOAC RFA's are limited funding with specific criteria; our hope is that combined awards will allow us to have a continuity of crisis support 24/7 between our in-clinic services and After Hours, specific to these two populations.

**Public Guardian Update-** We have developed a work plan for the Public Guardian's office to address some of the foundational components necessary for strong and efficient operations. We will be working on policies and procedures, additional fiscal supports and a position tied to assets and case management.

**CBHDA Criminal Justice Committee** – As co-chair for CBHDA's Criminal Justice committee, we are actively partnering with statewide partners to reduce the number of mentally ill individuals in custody. Recently the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) released a report that can be found at this link: <http://mhsoac.ca.gov/document/2017-12/criminal-justice-and-mental-health-project-report>

**CWDA Children's Committee** – I have been asked to co-chair CWDA children's committee. This committee will help steer several statewide initiatives aimed at improving mental health access and treatment for children, especially those involved in the child welfare system.

**Stay Wellness Center** – The STAY Well Center is designed to be a welcoming and fun space for students and youth participants that fosters connection among peers, provides educational resources related to wellness and mental health, and provides referrals to campus and community resources. National survey data reveals an increasing need for mental health services among college students, with more students seeking support for mental health issues in recent years. The focus of the STAY Well Center is to meet this growing need. An American College Health Association 2013 survey revealed significant evidence that student mental health issues, such as depression, stress, and anxiety, can have a significant impact on academic success, including lower grades, receiving incompletes or dropping classes.<sup>1</sup> The Center is designed to enhance connectivity with peers and mentors, reduce stress and increase student persistence and success rates at Woodland Community College. The Center will be jointly staffed by employees of Woodland Community College and the Health and Human Services Agency. The Center will be open Monday through Friday and will have regularly programmed activities.



**Coleman & Associates** – HHSA hosted Coleman and Associates from December 5 to 8 to kick-off a rapid Dramatic Process Improvement (DPI) process. The purpose of this effort is to re-design the Mental Health clinic and increase efficiencies related to client care. Implementation of the DPI recommendations will address all four of the HHSA strategic plan goals for fiscal year 17-18, including improving client outcomes, ensuring fiscal health, strengthening integration and making data-informed decisions. The DPI process involved a 3.5 day intensive assessment period, during which consultants closely observed staff and client processes, recommended tailored interventions and established a DPI Implementation Team. Over the course of the next two months, Coleman and Associates will provide weekly coaching sessions with the DPI Implementation Team to support the implementation and testing of recommendations related to increased access, the establishment of team-based care, streamlined paperwork, improved communication and the daily use of data to drive decisions.

**Stepping up Initiative** – see attached local intercept map with gaps/needs and solutions.

**Governor's proposed 18/19 budget** – see attached summary from CBHDA

**SUD audit**-DHCS was onsite 12/19-12/20 to conduct its annual Substance Abuse Block Grant audit. HHSA was found to be in compliance with 98.3% of current year audit standards and has successfully resolved 14 of 18 compliance deficiencies from the FY 16-17 audit. Outstanding items are targeted for resolution by the end of the Fiscal Year.

**EQRO Review** - The annual External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) audit is scheduled Wednesday, February 14 – Thursday, February 15, 2018. This audit focuses on Quality, Access, Timeliness, and Outcomes of care, how our system uses data, and the functionality of our Electronic Health Record. This is an opportunity for us to share our successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement and to receive recommendations for system wide improvements.

**MHSA Coordinator**- Welcome to our new MHSA Coordinator, Anthony Taula-Lieras! Anthony recently moved to the Sacramento Metropolitan Area from Oakland. He studied Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration, Non-Profit Management, Community Studies and proceeded to work in the health care, education, non-profit, and government fields. He is a strong advocate for the marginalized and has developed programs throughout California to serve youth and adults. Grateful for the opportunity to serve Yolo County, Anthony looks forward to contributing to the great work done within Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency to promote a healthy, safe, and economically stable community.

**First Responders' Mental Health Urgent Care**- Over the next several months, HHSA will be building our staffing and available services for this new program. Phase 1 – we will open our doors, Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This initial phase will include ONLY non-medical crisis services. Phase 2 – projected to begin within the next few months, this phase will complete the launch of full services at the site, including prescribing services. The program hours are planned for 12:00pm – 9:00pm Sunday through Saturday, at 500 B Jefferson Blvd, Building B in West Sacramento.

**Navigation Center**- This Davis program was awarded to CommuniCare Health Centers who has been working to locate a site. The Navigation Center will provide services similar to those at the “Front Door” of our Mental Health Clinics, including triage, assessment and referral to either community-based mild-to-moderate providers, or directly to HHSA Psychiatry. Pending a more permanent home, they will be stationing staff at various sites in Davis, including our A Street clinic once the remodel is complete. Services are projected to start by late Spring or early Summer.

**Adult Residential Facility**- We are in active discussions with Yolo Housing and the City of Davis on a potential site for the Facility. We have hired an Extra Help Consultant to assist us with assuring the site will meet Community Care Licensing and Department of Health Care Services requirements for ARF's. In addition, we issued an RFP for a provider of Adult Residential Treatment services, and plan to issue an Intent to Award by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SB82 RFP**- The MHSOAC released the RFP for the new round of SB82. As discussed, this round of funding will focus on Transition Aged Youth (TAY), aged 16-25. We are discussing our proposal and leaning toward a program that would support youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

**MHSA housing** – The housing project is coming along and really beginning to take shape. We will begin submitting applications shortly on behalf of clients who meet the criteria for the MHSA units.

### Homelessness-



Aurora William, Yolo County's new Homeless Coordinator is coming to Yolo from a small town on the Central Coast of California, where she is leaving her current position as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization that operates a 50-bed shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Aurora has been working in social services for 17 years. Prior to her current role, she also ran two other non-profits, including a welfare-to-work transportation program and an organization with a mission to educate and advocate on behalf of children in the areas of child support, drug and alcohol education and the importance of dating prudently. Aurora has also owned two businesses.

Aurora is currently working on her Master in Public Administration, and has a B.S. in Sociology as well as certificates in Addictive Studies and Mental Health. While working on her Certificates, Aurora completed an internship with the Santa Maria Behavioral Health, Mental Health and Veterans Courts. Aurora has also completed a Certificate in Non-Profit Leadership and Management from Cal Lutheran/Ventura County Community Foundation in 2004, and has served on Pepperdine University's American Humanics Scholars Advisory Board from 2003-2006.

Aurora is a divorced mother who put her education on a shelf for many years to raise her four children (ages 22, 25, 27 and 34) alone. In her free time, Aurora loves reading, working in her garden, taking on community projects and exercising. Aurora is currently training for her second Tough Mudder with her kids.

Volunteering in her community is one of Aurora's greatest joys. Aurora has been a member of the Optimists Club for 17 years. She is a precinct inspector for elections; sits on her county's Behavioral Health Advisory Board; serves as a Juvenile Justice Commissioner; and assists as a teacher and support group facilitator for NAMI. Aurora also worked with the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office to develop and coordinate a countywide anti-gang summer camp for junior high aged kids, which promotes healthy coping skill development and drug and alcohol awareness education.

**Homeless Count:** In December, the federal government released aggregated nationwide data from the 2017 Homeless Count ([link here](#)), which occurred in communities across the nation during the last 10 days of January.

- Overall, the point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness across the nation was 553,742 people, which represented an increase in homelessness (up a little less than 1%, or 3,814 people) for the first time in seven years.
- 30 states and the District of Columbia reported that they reduced total homelessness, while 20 states reported increases. States along the west coast were particularly likely to see increases, with California reporting the second greatest increase among all states.
- Communities across California reported 134,278 people experiencing homelessness in 2017, which constitutes a 13.7% increase from the 118,142 reported in 2016.
- California's overall homeless population accounts for 24% of the nation's homeless population (134,278 of the 553,742 people experiencing homelessness), while Census data indicates that California's total population comprising only 12% of the nation's total population.

Throughout California, homeless count results varied across communities. For instance, Sacramento County identified an increase of 38% (from 2,822 in 2015 to 3,665 in 2017), while Yolo County experienced a 7.8% decrease (from 498 in 2015 to 459 in 2017).

**HUD funding:** Last week the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development released its 2017 Continuum of Care funding awards. Agencies in Yolo County received awards totaling \$490,890. The funding breakdown is provided below. All of our existing CoC funded project were fully funded, and many received slight increases for Fair Market Rent. The only project that did not receive funding was our 2017 permanent supportive housing bonus project, which would have been a new project in our community if awarded.

Rank	Applicant	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
<b>TIER 1</b>				
1	City of Woodland/ 4th and Hope	PSH Consolidated	\$89,159	\$89,832
2	Yolo Community Care Continuum	SHP	\$144,028	\$144,855
3	City of Davis/ Davis Community Meals	Transitional Housing	\$66,282	\$66,282
4	City of Woodland/ 4th and Hope	PSH 2015	\$145,535	\$150,875
<b>TIER 2</b>				
			\$4,320	
5	City of Woodland/ 4th and Hope	PSH Bonus 2016	\$24,085	\$24,309
6	City of Woodland/ 4th and Hope	PSH Bonus 2017	\$29,473	\$0
<b>Non-Competitive</b>				
N/A	Yolo Community Care Continuum	2017 Planning Project	\$14,737	\$14,737
			<b>TOTAL AWARD:</b>	<b>\$490,890</b>

**PHC Housing grant-** In August of 2017, the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency partnered with the local jurisdictions (including the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland), Yolo County Housing and several local non-profit providers to submit a collaborative proposal for a Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) Local Innovation Grant. In total, the application requested \$2,344,729 to expand access to transitional and permanent housing for Medi-Cal members in Yolo County who are experiencing homelessness. The proposed project included four project components to address critical gaps in the local coordinated entry system for each of Yolo's cities. The four project components included: (1) Davis Multi-Functional Housing Center, (2) West Sacramento Permanent Supportive Housing, (3) Woodland Transitional Housing, and (4) Woodland Housing Facilitation Project. In November of 2017, staff received notification that Yolo's collaborative application has been conditionally selected for funding. Partnership staff have requested additional information regarding the proposed projects before giving final approval, and the lead staff members for each project component are currently working with Partnership to provide the requested information. Staff hopes to have contracts in place with Partnership in early 2018 for these critical housing funds.