

Local Mental Health Board

Director's Report

February 24, 2020

- a. **County Strategic Plan**-see attachment
- b. **EQRO** -The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) held its annual site review of our Yolo County Mental Health Plan (MHP) on February 11-12, 2020. Each year, the EQRO meets with a broad range of stakeholders, including leadership, staff, partner agencies, consumers, family members, and other community stakeholders; this year, reviewers met with over 50 participants across the two days. The express purpose of the review is to evaluate the MHP's performance in serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Additionally, the review provides us the opportunity to take pause, acknowledge the tremendous work we do in Yolo County to improve the lives of those who are in need of specialty mental health services, and to identify ways that we can continuously improve access, timeliness, outcomes and quality for the people we serve. We look forward to receiving the draft report from the EQRO, which will identify high level strengths and opportunities, as well as provide specific recommendations for system improvement.
- c. **Child, Youth, Family Branch Director** – After more than three years serving Yolo County as our Child, Youth, and Family Branch Director, Jennie Pettet will be leaving us to take on a new challenge in her life. Jennie came to us in a time of upheaval and uncertainty. She steadied the ship, identified resources needed to support our hard-working teams, provided much needed structure and accountability and above all, ensured that every decision we made protected the children whose lives we are entrusted with. While we will miss Jennie tremendously, we did know this day was coming, albeit a bit sooner than we had hoped. As such, we kept succession planning in mind when we conducted the recruitment of our Deputy Branch Director, Karleen Jakowski.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge all that our Child, Youth and Family Branch has accomplished during the past three years. The Branch has improved timeliness for court reports from 64% to 90%; ensured access to developmental screenings for all children ages 0-5 entering out of home care; created the Children's Services Coordination Team to ensure all children receive assessments and services within days of entering out of home care; improved timely investigations so that over 90% of investigations are closed within 30 days; implemented a Continuous Quality Improvement system and a Practitioner Training Unit; created the Court Orientation Program for parents served by child welfare services; transitioned our California Children's Services program to the Whole Child Model; doubled Specialty Mental Health Services to ensure all children who are eligible have culturally relevant, trauma informed and community based services; developed over 35 policies and desk guides to strengthen staff training and best practices; and increased resource families from 120 to over 400 families in Yolo County.

Jennie's last day with us will be February 28th. She will be moving to Pennsylvania where she will be the Bureau Director within the Office of Children, Youth and Families. I will be appointing

Karleen Jakowski as the Child, Youth and Family Branch Director. Please join me in celebrating Jennie, her successes, and her new adventure and welcoming Karleen into her new role.

- d. **Mental Health Diversion Training** – On Thursday, January 30, 2020, Yolo County was well represented at a convening in Sacramento entitled Mental Health Diversion- Making It Work Together, organized in partnership with the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, County Behavioral Health Directors of California, and the Judicial Council of California. Yolo participants included Judge Rosenberg, Judge Reed, Chief Probation Officer Fruchtenicht, Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven and Chris Bulkeley, Public Defender Joseph Gocke, and Health and Human Services Director Karen Larsen. There were several county teams in attendance from Alameda, Plumas, Fresno, Shasta, San Francisco, and others. Karen was on an afternoon panel with a mental health provider from San Francisco, a District Attorney representative from Plumas County and Judge Manley from Santa Clara discussing several hypothetical cases and how they would be addressed in each of our jurisdictions. Teams spent time working together to come to consensus in terms of a future state for diversion in their counties, gaps that exist and action steps to ameliorate those gaps. Staff Contact: Karen Larsen



- e. **Sequential Intercept Map (SIM)** – In January 2018, Yolo County finalized a SIM of the Adult Criminal Justice System identifying 51 gaps/needs and 16 of those were identified as priorities by Intercept Leads and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Following this a Criminal Justice Grant Groups was formed to apply for grants that fits these priority gaps. In late 2019, there was a desire to update the SIM to accurately reflect the current services and system in Yolo. CCP held a special session on October 30th to seek input from county and community partners, as well as, members of the public. Currently, CCP members are working on reviewing what came out of that October session to determine a new set of priority gaps that will align with the CCP strategic plan and ideally other County Strategic Plan goals. Tying these altogether will ensure multiple departments can focus their efforts over the next 3 years on significant improvements to the criminal justice/behavioral health services.
- f. **Davis Navigation Center** – CommuniCare continues to provide drop-in navigation services, as well as County mental health and substance use disorder service access, to

the public at the Davis County Mental Health clinic. Current hours of operation have been expanded to include two evenings a week with further hour expansion expected in the near future. Services are now available Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 10:00 pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

- g. **Pine Tree Gardens-** see attachment
- h. **Adult Residential Facility (ARF) Update-** HHSa continues to pursue back-up options, including consideration of sole sourcing the funds in order to expend by the deadline of June 30th.
- i. **Partnership HealthPlan of California and Dignity Health-** I am pleased to let you know that Partnership HealthPlan of California reached a three year and three-month agreement with Dignity Health with regard to contracts covering 23,000 members for primary, specialty, ancillary and hospital-based services in Yolo, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties.

The contract was set to expire on 12/31/19 but was extended by one month to 1/31/20. As you will recall, notices were sent to affected members at the end of December letting them know they would need to select other providers in the event an agreement couldn't be reached by 2/1/20. Members should have already been notified of this good news, but please encourage those with questions to call the toll-free line at 800-863-4155.

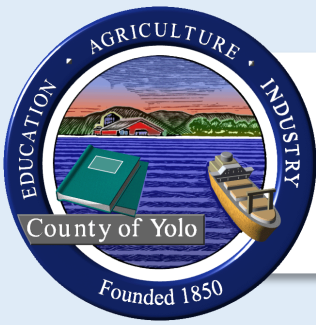
- j. **Crisis Response-**
 - a. **CIP/Urgent Care** – Karen has met with the police chiefs from Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland to discuss sharing the cost of clinicians to be embedded with their officer to respond to mental health crisis calls.
 - b. **CIT** – The county is exploring with our law enforcement partners the possibility of bringing this service in-house and using County staff to provide the initial 32-hour training and an annual 8-hour refresher training.
 - c. **Hospitals**– The county met with representatives from Sutter and Dignity to discuss our crisis response system. The group had a robust discussion about innovative approaches to mental health crisis response systems. We have agreed to convene a task force comprised of hospitals, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and HHSa staff to develop a local solution that works for all.
- k. **Homeless-** Yolo County has received preliminary notification of a \$1.5m grant award from the California Medical Services Program (CMSP). The grant sets up a “Homeless Hub” team of 3 County Case Managers to provide trauma-informed supports to a target population of adults living homeless throughout the County, focusing on those with complex physical or behavioral health conditions who have housing and/or

transportation challenges impeding their ability to obtain necessary health care services. The grant runs from March, 2020 through February, 2023.

- l. **School based mental health** – On February 11, Karen and Karleen met with the Superintendents of all districts to discuss leveraging education funding with county funding to grow mental health services for K-12 students in Yolo County. Additionally, the county is working with the districts to pursue additional funding through the OAC that would enhance this partnership.

- m. **Woodland Community College** – The County will be entering into an MOU with WCC whereby the College leverages dollars toward a County match to provide health and behavioral health education, screening and limited services on campus. Once the MOU is complete the County will release an RFP for these services with the intent for services to begin at the beginning of next school year.

- n. **CBHDA policy/legislative priorities** – see attached



Yolo County Strategic Plan Summary 2020-2024



Mission

Making a difference by enhancing the quality of life in our community

Pine Tree Gardens Sustainability Plan

Goals

Ensure that both Pine Tree Gardens homes continue to provide the level of care for which they are licensed in a fiscally and operationally sustainable manner, always placing the needs of the residents first.

Ensure current residents can remain in homes and are supported by a treatment team until they: 1) need a higher level of care as indicated by licensing requirements; or 2) prefer and are stable enough to enter independent living

Ensure the County, the Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee, Turning Point, and the operators work together to create a sustainable financial model for the Pine Tree Gardens homes, including ensuring the people providing the care are compensated at a fair and livable wage.

Restore programming within homes to support recovery and independence.

Short Term Actions (current fiscal year ending June 30, 2020)

Ensure all items recommended in home inspections report are completed by Turning Point

County to secure a deed restriction on homes to ensure continued operation as Licensed Residential Facilities for persons with mental health conditions for at least 20 years as required by MHSA funding

The operators, with support from the Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee if desired, develop six-month budgets from January to June 2020 and develop reasonable and sustainable long-term budgets that ensure a living wage and alignment with all state and federal laws and business best practices.

Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee and County representatives approach City of Davis informally to explore interest in a matching community contribution to the Pine Tree Gardens homes for the purpose of providing a fair and livable wage to the operators and improving living conditions for the residents.

Operators to provide regular financial reports to Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee to ensure fiduciary responsibility

County and operators develop a mutually agreeable process to allow County to provide possible suggestions for residents with additional support from a monthly patch, when there is an opening. Operators to make the final decision.

Operators to explore requesting additional funds from families of residents to help ensure fiscal sustainability.

County and Turning Point to explore using some of the facility funding to pay for utilities in 2020-21

County and City to address City contribution at 2x2, along with members of Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee

County to convene meeting(s) to identify options to ensure fiscal and operational sustainability

Mid-Term July 2, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Pursue legislation that would increase the reimbursement rate for operators of Board and Care facilities statewide.

County, Save Pine Tree Gardens Committee, Turning Point, and operators to research and evaluate options for fiscal and operational sustainability and determine path forward

County to evaluate possibility of extending agreement beyond June 30, 2021 to cover utilities for a limited/fixed term

Operators to provide ongoing quarterly financial reports to Save Pine Tree Gardens to receive funding

Long-Term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Implement agreed upon fiscal and operational sustainability solutions

Identify and build programming for residents

CBHDA 2020 Priorities

Overarching Priorities

1. CalAIM

Ensure CBHDA member interests are represented in negotiations with CMS, and in authorizing legislation, as well as companion budget requests. Priority areas include:

- a. Renewal of the ODS Waiver
- b. IMD Waiver Application
- c. Redefining Medical Necessity
- d. Payment reform
- e. Mental Health and SUD Integration
- f. ECM and ILOS
- g. Full Integration Pilots
- h. Financing for CalAIM

2. MHSR Reform.

Support restructure the MHSR to ensure:

- a. More flexibility to use the MHSR for individuals with a primary SUD diagnosis
- b. Eliminate funding percentages and instead align the MHSR funding around statewide target outcomes
- c. Preserve flexibility of MHSR as a critical source of funding for: Med-Cal, crisis services, prevention
- d. Preserve role of clients and communities in helping to shape goals/outcomes (MHSR)**

3. Network Adequacy

Advocate for the adoption of rational network capacity requirements by:

- a. Revisiting county behavioral health provider ratios not yet published in compliance with AB 1642
- b. Evaluating the impact of any network adequacy standards developed by DHCS
- c. Educating policymakers and DHCS regarding how other states have implemented network adequacy standards (Workforce)
- d. Proposing an alternative to provider-to-beneficiary ratios as a means for complying with Network Capacity Requirements

Sponsored Legislation

1. **Peer Specialist Certification** - Co-sponsor legislation to create a peer specialist certification program for mental health and SUDs (Workforce)**
2. **Integrated School-Based Services** - Sponsor legislation to expand integrated county behavioral health services on school-sites, including options for counties to bill private health plans for services provided to children with private coverage (School-Based)

Priority Legislation

1. **LPS Reform** - Shape LPS related reforms to align with CBHDA reform principles. Examples of CBHDA supported reforms include:
 - a. Support efforts to improve data collection/reporting
 - b. Allow for consideration of client's history, as relevant
 - c. Consider refining the definition of capacity in statute to ensure it is more clinically informed (LPS)
2. **Child Welfare Systems Reforms** – Expand behavioral health services to child welfare involved children and their caregivers, while addressing quality improvement (Child Welfare)**
 - a. Presumptive Transfers (CCR)
 - b. Family First Act implementation
 - c. Presumptive Eligibility for Foster Youth (Proposal TBD)

Sponsored Budget Requests

1. **MHSA Reform** – Consistent with CBHDA principles, seek reforms that increase flexibility and accountability for MHSA funds
2. **Board and Care Emergency Funding, Regulatory Relief and Long-Term Plan** - Sponsored a \$500 million budget request to enhance board and care rates (Homelessness/Housing)
3. **Peer Specialist Certification** - Co-sponsor budget request with the Steinberg Institute to establish Medi-Cal peer certification process at the state level (Workforce)**
4. **Diversion Services** - Co-sponsor budget request with the Steinberg Institute for diversion funding for individuals convicted of misdemeanors beyond those “at risk to be deemed incompetent to stand trial” (Justice-Involved)
5. **Public Guardian and Conservator** - Cosponsor public guardian and conservator budget request for \$68 million annually with partners, including California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (LPS)

Priority Budget Requests

1. **Continuum of Housing/No Place Like Home Reforms** - Advocate for additional funding to support increased demand for county behavioral health services in the housing continuum, including case management, housing, and treatment services. Request more flexibility to more efficiently and quickly use NPLH funding. (Homelessness/Housing)
2. **Mental Health First Aid** - Budget request related to mental health first aid training, following the Governor's veto of SB 428**(School Based)
3. **Income Subsidies** - Support stakeholder efforts to boost income subsidies (e.g. SSI, EITC) for very low-income individuals to help those who are at risk or newly homeless (Homelessness/Housing)