

Local Mental Health Board

Director's Report

March 30, 2020

- a. **County Behavioral Health services during 'Shelter-In-Place' Order** – As a result of the countywide, shelter-in-place- order that took effect at 12:01 am on March 19, 2020 and extends through 11:59 pm on April 7, 2020, the County has reduced all in-person behavioral health services to only those deemed *essential*. Essential services include crisis assessment/intervention and injectable medication provision. Crisis services can be accessed *in person* at both the Woodland and Davis Clinic during business hours and between 12 and 9 pm at the West Sacramento Urgent Care. All scheduled injection appointments will continue as scheduled in the arranged clinic. Existing HHSA clients with an urgent medication need can call HHSA's Nursing line at 530-666-8630 (option 5) and any community member with this need can access our Sutter Nurse Practitioners at the West Sacramento Urgent Care between 12 and 9 pm Monday through Saturday.

Routine psychiatric service appointments are scheduled to continue at this time, however they will be provided only by telephone. All other routine clinical services have been cancelled and will be rescheduled for after April 7, 2020. Our behavioral health services teams continue to reach out to all clients frequently by phone, some daily, to provide support and ensure clients' needs are met during this stressful time. The County's 24/7 Access and Crisis Line is still available at 888-965-6647 to assist community members in getting referred to services throughout Yolo County.

Further, HHSA strongly encourages all providers to maximize the number of services provided by telephone and telehealth to minimize community spread of COVID-19, as well as to protect the behavioral health workforce from illness. We have issued the following guidance to providers regarding the use of telephone and telehealth services; in the face of rapidly changing conditions, guidance continues to evolve and may be subject to change. For questions or more detail, please contact Samantha Fusselman or HHSAQualityManagement@yolocounty.org.

- The federal government has clarified that they will allow discretion regarding HIPAA violations when providers use telehealth in good faith. Therefore, as a temporary measure, staff may exercise their professional judgement when selecting a medium for provision of telehealth services; the Human Services Office of Civil Rights (OCR) website also provides detailed guidance about which common tablet and phone apps are appropriate for telehealth, and which public-facing apps cannot be used.
- Licensed and non-licensed providers of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) and specialty mental health services (SMHS) may provide services via telephone and telehealth as long as the service is within their scope of practice.
- Regarding initial assessments:
 - SMHS Providers: Currently can be done via telephone, telehealth, or in-person.

- DMC-ODS Providers: Currently can be done via telehealth or in-person. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is requesting a waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow initial assessments be done via telephone, as this is currently not permitted.
 - Staff must inform clients that the connection may not be secure, and they must document clients' consent to proceed.

- b. **CBHDA/CWDA Treatment for Foster Youth**– HHS leadership is working with CBHDA, CWDA and county partners from across the state to create a shared vision to improve access to behavioral health services for children, youth and families involved in the child welfare system. This vision looks to expand access to a broad continuum of services and improve outcomes for families in foster care.

- c. **Pine Tree Gardens Ad Hoc (Karen/Sandra)**– This group met on March 16th and discussed the sustainability plan, operator budgets, process for placements, state advocacy effort and the health and safety of residents in light of COVID19.

- d. **Trauma Informed Primary Care Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting(Karen)**-On March 3rd Karen participated in this advisory committee facilitated by California's Surgeon General, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris. The focus of the day was on how health systems plan to implement universal trauma screening and how to ensure services for those who have experienced trauma once the screen is completed.

- e. **University of California, Office of the President(Karen)** – Karen had a call with University of California Office of the President, UCSF, Fresno County Mental Health and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to explore how to improve access to mental health services for students attending UCs throughout the state. We discussed inter-county transfers as well as ways to leverage resources to grow services on campuses. Additional calls will be scheduled.

- f. **Crisis Response Task Force/OAC** - The Task Force met for the first time on March 4, with the joint goal of designing a Countywide crisis response system that addressed the mental health needs of people in crisis at the right level of care, in the least restrictive setting to achieve the most positive outcomes. Members include representatives from HHS, Sutter Davis Hospital, Woodland Memorial Hospital, and hospitals, Davis PD, Woodland PD, Winters PD, West Sacramento PD and Yolo County Sheriff. The Task Force reviewed potential options for crisis response by all parties in the short-term as well as discussed potential medium- and long-term options. All agreed future meetings will focus on the development of success metrics for any strategies put in place, as well as population specific concerns, i.e. criminal justice, homeless.

- g. **Street Medicine/Mobile Medical Unit(Karen)**– On March 9th HHS staff met with representatives from Dignity Health and Sutter Health to discuss the plan for street medicine and mobile medical unit. Additionally, Karen had a call with Partnership

Healthplan of California to discuss some solutions to billing issues brought up by the health systems.

- 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. **Sequential Intercept Map Refresh**-In October 2019, the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) met to review the current adult SIM and associated gaps/needs for the adult criminal justice system. HHSA staff is working with the CCP analyst to incorporate the input received from partners to develop a refreshed SIM model that is more streamlined and aligned with the current system. It is anticipated that partners will review and finalize in April, allowing for targeted cross-departmental approaches to improving the behavioral health approaches for those involved in the criminal justice system.
- j. **Homelessness**- Given the Governor's and other guidance on care for individuals who are homeless during the COVID outbreak, HHSA is working with providers, CAO and Office of Emergency Services on location options for individuals who may need isolation. In addition, all programs and the shelter are implementing social distancing and enhanced sanitation measures.
- k. **School based mental health**- HHSA is continuing to work on developing school-county partnerships with all school districts in the county to expand access to mental health services on school campuses by leveraging a variety of funding streams. Additionally, HHSA and YCOE are securing an agreement with an outside consultant to assist with the application process for the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant. The deadline for the MHSSA grant is extended to an unknown date at this time due to the COVID outbreak. The county-school workgroup is postponed at this time due to social distancing measures.