

Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency

Mental Health Director's Report

April 25th, 2022 (6-8pm)

a) **COVID19 update** - For more information please visit our Dashboard on our County Webpage, here is the [LINK](#).

b) **ARP Rescue Plan Workgroups** –

- **Mental Health:** On March 8th, the Board of Supervisors received an update on the Mental Health ARP workgroup's preliminary funding plan. Upon receiving the update, the Board asked for additional data and information regarding the plan and asked staff to reconvene the workgroup before returning to the Board for approval. Staff is working to reconvene the workgroup to begin addressing the board feedback.
- **Food Security:** First round of contracts is underway for Center for Land Based Learning for expansion of their mobile market program, Meals on Wheels for expansion of capacity, and Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance for senior hot meal delivery. Staff are still working with the Yolo Food Bank on their proposal. We anticipate bringing remaining requests and second round funding proposal to BOS last meeting in May.
- **Children, Youth and Families:** The Board approved funding to support a proposal to develop a Boys and Girls Club in Woodland. Additionally, the Board approved funding to support the expansion of the Crisis Nursery as they continue to work towards building a new, larger location. The Childcare subcommittee is providing revised funding recommendations to the Board that include funding several critical childcare projects that intend to sustain and expand access to infant and toddler care and to provide supports to childcare providers throughout the county.
- **Homelessness:** The Board approved funding to support the completion of Paul's Place in Davis and West Sacramento's proposal which included purchasing a motel and funding Downtown Streets Team. Paul's Place will be a multi-level facility that will include a resource center and 4 emergency shelter beds on the first floor, 10 transitional housing beds on the second floor, and 18 permanent supportive housing beds on the third and fourth floors. The program is anticipated to open in late summer 2022. The West Sacramento funding will allow the city to purchase a motel and utilize it to provide interim housing for approximately 25 individuals at a time who will receive case management support mirrored after the Homekey program currently operating at the Rodeway which West Sacramento was able to purchase through the Homekey grant in December 2020. Additionally, the funding will allow for Downtown Streets Team to operate for three more years in West Sacramento. Both the Paul's Place and West Sacramento proposals were 50/50 funding matches with Davis and West Sacramento, respectively. The Board of Supervisors recently approved \$1 million dollars in funding to support a Yolo County Housing and City of Woodland project known as Yolano Donnelly. Funding would assist Yolo County Housing Authority to move forward with a 20-acre public housing project that would include 400 total housing units and allow for local services and businesses on the property. This funding would be blended with Vouchers/HUD funding in the amount of \$3 million annually that would be received by the Housing Authority for 20 years. The City of Davis

anticipates submitting a funding request soon and there are several priority items the Board of Supervisors which may overlap with this category.

- c) **Cal AIM-** HHSA and Partnership Health Plan met on Friday April 8th to continue discussions around the timelines Partnership has for Yolo County related to Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS). HHSA is working with Partnership to host multiple upcoming meetings with various stakeholders, both general CalAIM sessions like we previously held through Provider Stakeholder Workgroup meetings, and more targeted sessions for specific ECM and CS categories that multiple providers may be interested in. Additionally, HHSA and Partnership will continue to have internal meetings about ECM and CM that may be best for HHSA to directly contract with Partnership on.

Separate from Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports, there are significant behavioral health reforms that are a part of CalAIM for the Specialty Mental Health Services and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System programs which are mandatory reforms. To support this large undertaking, an internal HHSA CalAIM workgroup has begun meeting and sub-workgroups are now being formed to focus on the first set of state deliverables due 9/30/22. Between now and September 2022, the HHSA behavioral health reform workgroups for CalAIM work will focus on:

- updating billing codes in our EHR to support successful Medi-Cal billing,
 - training all County and provider staff on the new statewide MH screening tool (yet to be released),
 - training all County and provider staff on developed standardized transitions between mild-to-moderate and SMI care tools,
 - updating Medi-Cal documentation guidance documents and training all County and provider staff on the changes,
 - updating the data sharing agreement between HHSA and PHP, and
 - working towards CMS-mandated interoperability rules.
- a) **K-12 Services-** The K-12 School Partnerships project formally launched on November 15, 2021 with the execution of behavioral health contracts to serve the identified catchment areas:
- Davis Catchment Area: CommuniCare Health Care Centers
 - West Sacramento Catchment Area: Victor Community Support Services
 - Woodland Catchment Area: CommuniCare Health Centers
 - Rural Areas: Rural Innovations in Social Economic, Inc.

HHSA has been working closely with the Office of Education, the individual Districts, and the contracted providers to develop referral processes, data sharing agreements, data collection mechanisms, and outcome measures. The partnered entities are continuing to explore funding opportunities, including the Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP), additional MHSA funding, and additional MHSSA grant funding. There are other potential funding opportunities for the partnership to explore, including the [California Community Schools Partnership Program Implementation Grant](#).

With the midyear budget amendments approved by both the Local Mental Health Board and the Board of Supervisors, staff are now working on determining how the increased MHSA investments

will be distributed across the four contracts/catchment areas. Staff anticipate having a more robust update with specifics of those increases in next month's Director's report.

b) **Upcoming RFPs**-Please see linked page for information on upcoming RFPs. [LINK](#)

c) **Public Media Campaign(s)**-

Mental wellness campaign- HHSA continues to work with EMRL to implement the county-wide campaign "It Only Takes". As previously shared, It Only Takes focuses on lifestyle changes that can encourage personal resilience in times of high stress, including prioritizing a good night's sleep, spending time with loved ones, practicing resiliency skills, breaking old habits, asking for help, and maintaining a healthy diet. The website offers tips around each focus item and the ability to sign up for a weekly newsletter with additional advice and encouragement. The campaign includes billboards, banners, a website/landing page, outreach materials including flashcards and coloring books for Yolo County schools, a TV commercial, and a social media campaign. This project will sunset June 2022.

Additional funding remains set aside to support mental wellness campaigns. While "It Only Takes" is focused on reaching the broader community, providing tips to promote resilience, HHSA intends to use the remaining funding set aside using a tiered approach to develop and launch two subsequent wellness campaigns. The first would intend to target those in our community with mild to moderate mental health needs and the third would target those in our community with more significant mental health needs. HHSA is interested in feedback from the Local Mental Health Board and other stakeholders in our community to inform these upcoming efforts.

Overdose Awareness/Prevention- HHSA met with CommuniCare staff who support their Youth programs and attended Sacramento's Fentanyl Awareness Campaign event several months ago to brainstorm ideas and concepts to bring to Yolo. Additionally, HHSA staff have purchased fentanyl strips and are working on purchasing Naloxone kits to distribute to clients and field-based teams as part of our overdose prevention efforts. The District Attorney's office is working on finalizing their contract with a consultant, and once completed all parties will reconvene to finalize the rollout plan for this awareness and prevention campaign.

d) **Crisis Now**- The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency is actively pursuing the development of the Crisis Now program as a vital resource for behavioral health crisis support to Yolo County. Currently, staff are finalizing a request for proposals (RFP) to select a vendor who will operate the high-tech 24/7 call center and the 24/7 crisis receiving/stabilization/sobering center components of the project. Staff anticipate the RFP will be released in April. The RFP process from release to final execution of contracts is expected to take approximately 4-6 months. Following contract execution, staff anticipates that the newly selected provider will need several months to hire and train staff for the project before services can begin, as we anticipate the provider will need 60-70 full time staff to support this work.

The space where the high-tech call center and receiving/stabilization/sobering center will be located also requires some remodel work to ensure it meets the needs of these services, is built out in a safe way for those in active crisis both for staff and the clients operating and creates a therapeutic environment to increase stabilization. Staff from HHSA and the General Services Department are currently engaging an architect and engineer to begin this process.

Staff is currently targeting a launch of the full Crisis Now program in early 2023. While we had all hoped it would be sometime in 2022, we would rather ensure all the necessary supports, training, and facilities are in order prior to launching Crisis Now then to launch prematurely and not be able to adequately meet the needs of our clients. As we get closer to project launch, HHSA staff will be developing a full communications plan to inform the public, stakeholders, and partners about this exciting new service.

e) **Department of State Hospital Programs-**

The DSH diversion program had its first graduation last Thursday. We got to celebrate live and in-person and were honored to host this graduation for this amazing participant! The Jail Based Competency Treatment program is upcoming and will be staffed by Wellpath. They will be serving 5-7 individuals in the jail and working towards competency restoration.

f) **QM Audits/Reviews-**

HHSA reviewed BHC's Draft MH EQRO report and provided feedback. The final version of the report should be released in the next 30 days. Our next scheduled audit is our annual state DMC-ODS and SABG audit on June 29-30, 2022.

g) **Safe Harbor-**

HHSA's Interim Mental Health Director met with YCCC's Executive Director, two YCCC Board members, and the President and Executive Director of NAMI on April 13th. YCCC and HHSA are committed to working collaboratively to increase the utilization of beds at Safe Harbor by reducing and/or removing access barriers and to improve our critical partnership. There are a series of follow up meetings being scheduled to continue the productive collaboration that began in the April 13th meeting. There is collective interest in supporting Safe Harbor's fiscal sustainability and NAMI has offered their assistance in pursuing several long-term solutions to this end. Lastly, YCCC and HHSA have identified additional short-term solutions and are committed to working together closely and collaboratively moving forward.

h) **Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign: Building Youth Resilience-**

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Last year's Child Abuse Prevention month campaign was the development and launch of the [Strong Families Yolo Website](#). For this year's campaign, the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) used website traffic data to inform CAP month efforts and build upon the most frequently visited resources on the site – which was resources for youth. With that in mind, coupled with what is known about how the pandemic has exacerbated challenges and stressors for youth in our community, the CAPC created this year's CAP month campaign - Building

Youth Resilience. The Building Youth Resilience [Youth Guide](#) and [Parent and Caregiver Guide](#) provide concrete guidance and ideas to build resilience in youth and their caregivers. We hope that you find these guides and the associated [toolkit](#) valuable.