

Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency

Mental Health Director's Report

May 23rd, 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:** The draft MHSA annual update spend plan reflects a recommendation to provide matching funds to maximize the reach and therefore the impact of the ARP funding set aside to impact mental health needs in our community.
- **Food Security:** Three projects (Center for Land Based Learning, Meals on Wheels, and YHHA) have entered the contract phase with a fourth project (Yolo Food Bank) going back to the Board of Supervisors. The workgroup plans on recommending to the Board that they re-open a second round of funding for additional requests in June. Thus far, the food security workgroup has earmarked approximately \$1.7 million for approved projects and would like to re-open the application process again or the remaining \$1.3 million.
- **Children, Youth and Families:** Several childcare projects are moving into the contract phase (First 5 Yolo- Childcare Recovery project, YCOE- Caregiver Connections, Esparto Unified School District Infant/Toddler Care project, and YCOE Infant Care project). Additionally, the countywide needs assessment (“Roadmap to the Future”) is getting ready to launch and will be led by the Yolo County Office of Education.
- **Homelessness:** The City of Davis submitted their ARP funding request to the County and met with County staff earlier this month to discuss. The Housing & Homelessness Workgroup will be meeting on 5/23 to review any outstanding proposals and make recommendations ahead of the Board of Supervisors meeting on 6/7.

c) **Cal AIM-**

HHSA and Partnership Health Plan are working together to schedule a series of upcoming informational and input sessions focused on Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS).

- Provider Stakeholder Workgroup meetings focused on discussing CalAIM overall to give our network of community providers additional opportunities to engage with Partnership
- Internal HHSA/Partnership meetings to focus on a few key ECM programs HHSA is considering
- Targeted ECM or CS meetings with providers and Partnership, the first of which is anticipated to focus on Recuperative/Respite Care

Internally, HHSA convened a CalAIM BH workgroup focusing on the implementation of the nine milestones requires by DHCS for Medi-Cal reform. From Sept 30, 2022 through Sept 29, 2023, there are many deliverables the County must submit to DHCS to provide evidence of CalAIM reform implementation and secure additional funding. Various sub-workgroups are now in place to specifically addresses the necessary changes within our service billing, state claiming, documenting, and tracking systems necessary to support CalAIM reforms.

d) **Peer Certification –**

CalMHSA is spearheading DHCS' initiative to provide the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program to interested counties. Yolo has been allotted 11 scholarships for *current* County and provider Peer staff (9 for MH peers and 2 for SUD peers) for the initial training due to start after July 1, 2022. Eleven (11) more scholarships will be available for new peer staff starting in FY22/23. NOTE: County allotment is based on county size. Based on peer staff interest in getting certified, we submitted the list of current peers to CalMHSA so that each peer can now apply directly to CalMHSA for a scholarship to cover the cost of all training and securing the certificate. Once CalMHSA approves Certification program vendors, any peer (with or without a scholarship) can sign up for the program. We expect to see program enrollments start in early FY22/23.

e) **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.

HSSA continues to work closely with the Office of Education, the individual Districts and the contracted providers to develop and improve processes to improve access to services for students in the districts. The partnered entities continue to explore funding opportunities. Additional MHSA funding, of \$1.9 million, was approved to be added to the K-12 School Partnerships contracts to expand services in each catchment area. Additionally, a third round of MHSSA funding was announced and Yolo County intends to apply for a minimum of \$727,000 of additional grant funding, which will extend the project through 2026.

On May 12, 2022, HSSA staff had the opportunity to present on our K-12 School Partnerships project at the Building a Resilient Yolo annual conference, held in Woodland. The K-12 session was well attended, and the project was well-received by attendees. Feedback in the conference session confirmed the ongoing and growing need for expanded access to mental health services on school campuses.

On May 13, 2022 Supervisor Angel Barajas (Yolo County, District 5) visited two school sites in the Woodland Catchment area and one school site in the Rural Catchment area. HSSA, the Yolo County Office of Education, the individual districts and the contracted providers presented the K-12 School Partnership to Supervisor Barajas, highlighting the variety of services as well as the tailoring of programming to each district based on their regional committee's input and unique needs of the student populations. An article highlighting this visit can be found [here](#).

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

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

Mental wellness campaign- HSSA 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 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. The coloring/activity books “Everybody Feels” are being printed in English and Spanish and will be distributed to TK-2nd grade students throughout Yolo County. The television spot is being filmed now and will be released soon. This project will sunset June 2022.

Overdose Awareness/Prevention- HHSa, CommuniCare, and the DA’s office continue working on their respective pieces of this campaign. The efforts are mostly still in the planning and development stage, but all partners anticipate having a contractor secured shortly to start implementing some of the media campaign ideas. Other upcoming efforts will be distribution of fentanyl testing strips, Narcan, information sessions, and ideally some public awareness events in the early Fall.

h) **Crisis Now –**

HHSa staff continue working with other County departments and leadership on the release of the RFP for the high-tech call center and receiving/sobering/stabilization center. Additionally, multiple staff are working on site needs, including securing an architect/engineer to provide mockups of the anticipated space, gather estimated costs associated with necessary remodels, and hope to bring this to the Board of Supervisors sometime in June or early July. HHSa leadership spent much of their Strategic Planning session on May 17th focused on project management categories and needs for Crisis Now. We are still targeting a launch of the full Crisis Now program in early 2023.

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

The Jail Based Competency Treatment Program (JBCT) continues to move forward with finalizing contracts and WellPath working on hiring key staff. County teams were provided an update on May 17th and additional context around this can be shared in the LMHB meeting, should there be interest in further discussion.

Yolo County teams (District Attorney, Public Defender, HHSa, and Probation) continue to partner with DSH on felony incompetent to stand trial (IST) diversion programs. The existing grant funded diversion programs has served 8 individuals to date, with 1 graduation, and is anticipated to expand in the future thanks to additional funding from DSH for staffing and housing related costs. The Yolo County teams continue to meet to determine the best way to utilize this additional funding and are keeping an eye on the Governor’s May Revise Budget to see if additional and/or permanent funding for this program will be made available.

Lastly, while it does not bring any more funding to Yolo County, teams are also partnering with DSH on an MOU that would allow Yolo County F-IST clients to be placed in a locked IMD to receive mental health and competency treatment for those appropriate to go into this setting. Once JBCT officially launches and this MOU is finalized, this will allow 4 competency restoration/treatment options for Yolo County F-IST clients based on their needs and appropriate level of care. Some clients would still be deemed appropriate for competency restoration at a DSH hospital, others would be served through JBCT, others would be served at the IMD facility and then transitioned to the HHSa diversion team when appropriate, and some can be served directly by the HHSa diversion team from custody.

j) **QM Audits/Reviews-**

On June 29 and 30, 2022, we will have our annual DMC-ODS and SABG audit. Additionally, our annual MH EQRO final report for this FY was issued by BHC on April 27, 2022. This report provided the following recommendations for the next year:

- Investigate and identify reasons for the low service penetration rates of the Latino/Hispanic population as well as for the Asian/Pacific Islander population. Implement interventions to address obstacles to service access.
- Provide contract providers full access to the Avatar system, electronic health record, and service entry modules.
- Continue the Medicare billing workgroup and proceed with implementing a Medicare billing process for all appropriate services.
- Develop and implement two active Performance Improvement Projects, one clinical and one non-clinical. Access technical assistance from the EQRO for development and improvement.
- Continue to refine and operationalize optimal data collection approaches including the provision of ongoing staff training and the implementation of quality and reliability measures.
- Develop and implement a mechanism to collect and access aggregated data for reporting and trending.
- Develop a mechanism and begin tracking or trending psychotropic medication monitoring for youth as per Senate Bill 1291 requirements.

k) **Safe Harbor-**

HHSA staff met with Safe Harbor leadership on Monday May 16th to continue discussing the needs of Yolo County clients, process improvement areas, and partnership opportunities. Staff from both agencies will be meeting regularly moving forward to continue the progress being made through these discussions.

l) **May is Mental Health Month Resolution –**

The County Board of Supervisors will be presenting a resolution for Mental Health Awareness Month at the May 24th BOS meeting. This year's resolution is a recognition of Yolo County officially accepting the nomination from the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundations to be a Stepping Up Innovator County. This makes Yolo County one of only five counties throughout California to be named an Innovator County and is a recognition of the "remarkable efforts related to Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails."

This work started with recognition from our Board of Supervisors in 2015 when they first passed a resolution to declare Yolo County a Stepping Up County and has continued through the hard work and dedication of so many County departments and provider partners. Yolo County chose to not only focus on those with serious mental illness, but to expand the work to include all individuals involved in the criminal justice system who have a mental health or substance use need. The work has led to a robust Sequential Intercept Map (SIM), attached to this report, that outlines the services and programs available at each Intercept, facilitated the County Criminal Justice Grant Group which

combined has secured nearly ten grants to date to help fill identified gaps and needs in the system, helped create shared language between criminal justice partners and behavioral health partners, and worked to align with the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Strategic Plan. An article highlighting the Mental Health Awareness proclamation can be found [here](#).

m) Substance Use System of Care Event –

Yolo County is one year into a two-year technical assistance project led by HHS in partnership with Health Management Associates (HMA) to examine our Adult Substance Use Ecosystem. The kickoff event was in April 2021 where substance use providers, HHS staff, criminal justice partners, healthcare partners, education partners, community members and housing partners gathered to understand the purpose and scope of the project, look at current practices and processes in the system, and set some countywide goals. Three more sessions have been held, along with some individual coaching and technical assistance from HMA staff to providers directly and on August 12th all the providers and partners will be reconvening to do a 1-year check in on progress towards the goals, evaluate changes to the system, receive information on fentanyl awareness, and set the expectations for the remainder of the project. To date, these have all been virtual, but we are hopeful that the August session can be a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting. Any partners or members of the community are welcome to attend and a sign-up link should be available by next month's LMHB meeting.

n) CARE Courts –

The California Health and Human Services Agency has proposed a new program in California called Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court. "CARE Court is a proposed framework to deliver mental health and substance use disorder services to the most severely impaired Californians who too often languish – suffering in homelessness and incarceration – without the treatment they desperately need." It is intended to be an upstream diversion program to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with a schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorder diagnosis with an individualized care plan court-ordered in civil court for up to 24 months. There are multiple versions of legislation moving through the process currently on what the final requirements would be with CARE Court, but current language is concerning to stakeholders in a few key areas.

- No current funding is designated in the Governor's May Revise to provide counties with funding to support these programs, even though counties are the identified entity to provide the supports and treatment
- Proposal changes existing pathways to LPS conservatorship laws and regulations by using a CARE Court termination as the basis for a factual presumption that no suitable community alternatives are available to treat the individual
- Proposal includes fines for counties determined to be in noncompliance with court orders
- Persistent noncompliance may result in a state-appointed "receiver" to oversee the county and the court-ordered care at the county's cost
- Includes the requirement to provide this support not only to those with Medi-Cal, but also to anyone identified to meet the target population which could result in a large financial strain on county funding which is already strained

CBHDA, CSAC, Urban and Rural County lobbyists and RCRC are working with various partners to continue providing feedback to the Administration on these concerns.