

Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency

Mental Health Director's Report

December 5th, 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**

- Children, Youth, and Families: The Board of Supervisors recently approved two projects recommended by the CYF ARP workgroup for funding and received an update on the countywide needs assessment ("Roadmap to the Future") which will provide a comprehensive overview of needs and gaps for children and youth in Yolo County to inform future investments in programming, supports and services.

The first project funded is a \$50,000 pilot project with a non-profit organization to assist with resource family recruitment and retention for Child Welfare. The second was to provide \$550,000 of the \$600,000 set aside by the workgroup for a project related to equity. This funding will be used to support the Yolo Basic Income Pilot project (YOBI). YOBI is a first-in-the-nation basic income supplement program for 76 of the lowest-income and most vulnerable homeless families on CalWORKS. The 24-month program will provide additional cash benefits to 76 families pulling that family's total income \$1 over the California Poverty Measure.

- Homelessness: On Tuesday October 25th, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation on the 3 remaining recommended housing/homelessness proposals and unanimously voted to approve all 3. One was a partnership with the City of Davis for a 2-year pilot of the Downtown Street Team program which has shown great success in multiple other jurisdictions, including West Sacramento, towards beautifying the downtown area, assisting those experiencing homelessness in job readiness, and housing. The second proposal was a partnership with the City of Woodland to fund the second phase of the East Beamer Way shelter. The first phased opened in January 2021 providing a permanent 100-bed emergency shelter, this second phase will provide a permanent building for showers, restrooms, kitchen, laundry, and will also contain 6 isolation/quarantine rooms to provide non-congregate shelter options for individuals experiencing communicable diseases or needing to isolate for other reasons. The last proposal was to provide funding to support and stabilize the Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition, the non-profit homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) for Yolo County that oversees several State and Federal funding sources for housing and homelessness and coordinated all Federally mandated CoC operations. The CAOs office is now working on finalizing contracts will all three entities.

Additionally, staff received an update that the West Sacramento City Council approved the financing structure for the purchase of a motel in West Sacramento that will be used to provide at least 3 years of services and interim housing for those experiencing homelessness which was a previously approved County ARP proposal for the City of West Sacramento. Staff expect the purchase to go through in December or January at which time the current RoomKey motels in West Sacramento will come offline and the clients there will move into the newly purchased motel.

c) **CalAIM**

On Monday November 7th, HHSa leadership met with Partnership Health Plan leadership, the DHCS Director, and leadership from several other Partnership counties to discuss CalAIM success, challenges, and next steps. DHCS' key feedback during this session was that they have heard loud and clear that reimbursement rates and structures for enhanced care management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) need to be better, and that they recognize something of this magnitude is going to take 2-5 years to fully implement, build capacity, and realize the impact. Counties main feedback to Partnership and DHCS was there can be lessons learned from other initiatives the State has rolled out so we don't repeat the same mistakes, that rates and confusing information on requirements has made it challenging to providers/partners to opt into ECM and CS programming, and the workforces of the County and community based organizations are absolutely decimated right now, making the CalAIM lift even more of a challenge to effectively implement.

HHSa will continue to play a coordination role in bringing Partnership and providers together to explore ECM and CS and staff are working on future meetings to convene interested providers, including having Partnership come to the January Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) meeting to discuss the Re-Entry ECM benefit that goes live 7/1/2023.

Partners and providers are encouraged to connect directly with Partnership and can find more information [here and here](#).

HHSa's Behavioral Health (BH) CalAIM workgroup completed and submitted the large number of required deliverables for the September 30, 2022 DHCS deadline. All counties are currently awaiting DHCS feedback regarding these submissions and whether corrections are needed. We are also waiting for confirmation from DHCS on when Yolo's next BH QIP incentive payment, which is tied to submission of deliverables in September 2022, can be expected and the total amount of that payment. In the meantime, the BH CalAIM workgroups have shifted to tackling the next set of deliverables due on March 1, 2023. A priority area of these next deliverable are related to data sharing with Partnership Health Plan and payment reform as DHCS will roll out a completely different way for Counties to claim and get reimbursed for Medi-Cal BH services.

d) **K-12 Services**

In July 2022, the K-12 School Partnership Program contracts were increased using MHSa funds. This increased funding has supported the project expanding to serve more students throughout Yolo County. Community providers are hiring staff to support this expansion in all five school districts, aligned with the schools' Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) model. This will be the first full school year that the services are in place. The districts, HHSa and the providers are collaborating to support increasing services in all regions to best support Yolo County students and staff. The Health & Human Services Agency, along with the Yolo County Office of Education, has initiated meetings with each district superintendent's office to share the status of the program and hear about the district's needs to ensure the program is aligned based on services and supports already present in the district and the needs of the students.

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

f) **Public Media Campaign(s)**

Wellness Campaign- Advertising firm EMRL continues to promote the “It Only Takes” ([LINK](#)) wellness campaign throughout Yolo County. In the months of October and November additional signage, including billboards and yard signs went live. These signs direct viewers to the [website](#) where they can sign up to join a mailing list that provides weekly health and wellness resources. Ongoing, the campaign includes many ways to reach the community, including:

- Activity/Coloring books for school-aged children: The books will be distributed by HHSa to local schools in the coming months.
- Wellness Activity/Flash Cards for all ages: These have been printed and will be distributed by HHSa to local schools and throughout the community.
- Social Media Campaign: Social media traffic is directed to the website to learn more and join the mailing list.
- Educational Emails: These emails highlight various health and wellness topics and provide local resources. The email campaign started at the beginning of November and will run through December.

The campaign’s overall objective is to promote the well-being of all-Yolo County residents by providing local resources and reminders of the small things we can do to improve all aspects of our health. The campaign will end December 31, 2022.

Overdose Awareness/Prevention

Staff continue to work with Uptown Studios to create an ongoing media and awareness campaign around fentanyl, overdose in general, harm reduction approaches, and how to access care. The scope of that work will include: 2-3 animated videos in English and Spanish that can be shared broadly and will be posted on the HHSa’s website

- Partner toolkit that will include talking points, social media posts, and other materials to distribute to providers in English and Spanish to schools, migrant centers, housing programs, rural communities, and more partners are being identified currently
- Marketing materials including flyers, postcards, giveaway items, Eblasts, stickers, informing/education materials on where to find support, resources, Narcan, and testing strips

g) **Crisis Now**

HHSa and General Services staff continue to work with Lionakis on the site remodeling work. The initial timeframe from Lionakis had construction being completed in early 2025, through weekly transition meetings during the month of November staff were able to work with Lionakis to expedite several planning aspects and the new timeline currently has a construction completion estimate of mid-2024. HHSa and procurement will work on re-issuing an RFP once a more concrete timeline on construction is finalized.

h) Department of State Hospital (DSH) Programs

The DSH contract administration is currently transitioning from the District Attorney's Office to HHSA. All DSH referrals must be from the state hospital waitlist and determined to be incompetent to stand trial (IST). There is housing money associated with each client accepted into the program through December 2022.

In the coming months, HHSA expects to receive a contract revision from DSH that will take this pilot program Yolo has been operating and make it a permanent, ongoing part of our forensic system of care. We look forward to our continued partnerships with the DA, PD, probation, jails and criminal justice system and treatment providers.

i) QM Audits/Reviews

On August 30-31, 2022, HHSA participated in the DMC-ODS EQRO review by remote means. HHSA staff are currently reviewing the Draft report that resulted from the review by Behavioral Health Concepts (BHC) and will submit our feedback for the Final version of the report on November 21, 2022.

In February 2023, BHC will likely come onsite to review our MHP for specialty mental health services during FY21-22.

j) Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Transition

After working with Telecare Inc to address Corrective Action Plan (CAP) items for approximately six months with very little progress, HHSA leadership worked with County Counsel and the Board on a plan to end the Telecare FSP contract and shift the responsibilities and duties to the other contracted Adult FSP provider in Yolo County, TLCS dba Hope Cooperative. Hope Cooperative was awarded 50% of the FSP services following the competitive RFP process two years ago and has performed very well on this contract. Additionally, Hope Cooperative has a long history in Sacramento County of serving the FSP population and housing/homelessness services and recently worked with City of Woodland, HHSA, Fourth and Hope, Friends of the Mission, and Yolo County Housing staff to move 28 FSP clients into the permanent supportive housing (PSH) project on East Beamer Way.

While a transition of this magnitude is bound to have challenges along the way, Telecare, Hope Cooperative, and HHSA teams are meeting weekly throughout this transition to ensure client care is at the forefront of all decisions and remains the primary focus of this effort. Hope Cooperative is working on hiring adequate staffing levels to ensure they can support these new clients, the new housing programs they will be supporting in Woodland and West Sacramento, and the Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Wellness Center in Woodland that Telecare has been operating. Hope Cooperative has a permanent office space already established in West Sacramento and will be taking over the lease of Telecare's space in Woodland as part of this transition.

Clients were notified of this transition on November 14th through joint Telecare and Hope Cooperative letters that were provided to each client when discussing the upcoming transition. While a final date has not been set for these transitions, Hope Cooperative has begun hiring staff and we anticipate client transitions will begin the first week of December and continue until all clients are successfully transitioned to Hope Cooperative. To help support clients during this transition period, HHSA has added a Wellness Center peer group in Woodland and West Sacramento each week where clients transitioning can receive support.

k) CARE Court

Counties have started receiving start-up funding for CARE Court development and implementation from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Yolo County's start-up allocation is \$250,000. The County Administrator's Office (CAO), Public Defender, District Attorney and HHSA have the first planning session regarding CARE Court implementation scheduled for December 2nd.

l) MHSA 3-Year Planning Process

The Yolo County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 3 Year Community Planning Process (CPP) began on Tuesday October 25th with a Community Engagement Work Group (CEWG) Meeting. This meeting provided an overview of MHSA including the community planning process, general standards, opportunities to provide feedback, and discussion on next steps and continued engagement. The next MHSA CEWG meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 at 3:30 PM-5:00 PM. Meeting information and flyer available [here](#). All MHSA meetings are open to the public. Please visit the MHSA website (www.yolocounty.org/mhsa) to subscribe for e-notifications to get the latest MHSA updates, events & meeting information delivered to your inbox.