

Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency

Mental Health Director's Report

February 27th, 2023 (6-8pm)

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

b) **CalAIM**—

The HHS CalAIM workgroup continues to work collaboratively with CalMHSA to acquire the necessary documents to submit the upcoming March 1st DHCS CalAIM deliverables. Additionally, we have requested needed documents and training attestations from both internal and external providers, created a County-specific service code crosswalk in advance of all July 1st payment reform implementation, are developing boilerplate contract language, and refining other associated templates for that same submission. To update our billing/claiming and client records systems in accordance with CalAIM expectations, we will be implementing a Health Information Exchange (HIE) system with local hospitals, providers, and Partnership Health Plan. HHS met with SacValley MedShare in late January 2023 to work towards implementation of their services later this Spring.

c) **K-12 School Partnerships Project**—

The Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) with the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) completed presentations and engagement sessions with the five school district Superintendents and their staff. The sessions served to develop shared understanding of the K-12 Partnership, hear about the districts' needs and develop alignment for the future. The contracted service providers are continuing to provide essential on-campus support in schools where the district is experiencing critical school counselor vacancies. Each Catchment area is assessing service delivery models and seeking to increase services to reach the most students. The collaboration between each district, the provider and HHS is forming the foundation to adjust service delivery based on needs and available resources/staffing. The K-12 Partnerships Project was highlighted through a presentation at the Mental Health EQRO remote review in early February.

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

- **Jail Health/Mental Health Services RFP**- The Jail Health RFP, inclusive of behavioral health and medical services, has been drafted by staff and consultants with a tentative release in early Spring 2023. The draft RFP is currently with County Counsel for review. Once County Counsel has reviewed, County staff will convene and refine the timeline for release and evaluation. The evaluation team will include 5-7 individuals representing HHS, Probation, the Sheriff's Office and the LMHB.

e) **Overdose Awareness/Prevention Campaign**—

The first of two animated videos for this project is complete. Uptown Studios is updating the Yolo County Opioid Coalition website which the videos will directly link to, along with our new infographic on opioids, fentanyl, and medication assisted treatment. Staff will be working on this project for the next several months. We have purchased fentanyl test strips, received a shipment of NARCN from DHCS and CommuniCare has started to train staff in the use of NARCAN.

f) **Crisis Now**—

The HHS Crisis Now team continues to work with architectural and engineering firm Lionakis on design plans for the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and the nearby portable buildings remodel. Parts of the initial plans are under reconsideration given the buildings current configuration and associated

costs for completion. One more JDF site visit has been scheduled with Lionakis to determine if the site is viable. Simultaneously, HHS staff are exploring alternative locations for the crisis receiving chairs and short-term residential beds as well as moving towards a phased approach to the full Crisis Now model implementation. This phased approach may offer additional opportunities for collaboration and may provide funding stability should the planned 3-year pilot prove valuable to the community. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

g) Department of State Hospital (DSH) Programs—

The DSH program collaborated recently with our Jail Based Competency Program to discuss referrals and referral routes to both programs. The DSH program is going strong with 10 clients, two graduations, and a third graduation upcoming. Program partners have been doing great collaborative work and creating real change for program participants.

h) QM Audits/Reviews—

Yolo County participated in the Mental Health External Quality Review (EQRO) remote review on Feb 8 and 9, 2023. As of Feb 13, 2023, all additional requested documents, presentations, and data reports were sent to the review team. The EQRO review team was very pleased with consumer and peer staff participation during the review. Additionally, we received positive feedback regarding the level of organization and engagement from the Yolo Mental Health teams.

i) Placer County System of Care/Lotus Center Site Visit—

Staff from HHS, the Public Defender's Office, and the District Attorney's Office toured one of Placer County's Behavioral Health Facilities on Friday February 17th. Placer County generously offered a tour of their new crisis program, the [Lotus Behavioral Health Crisis Center](#). The tour also included a visit to their wellness center, and an overview of all their onsite partnerships and programs. Placer County, like Yolo, participated in the 2-year Crisis Now learning collaborative sponsored by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). Placer County used what they learned from the collaborative to fill gaps in their crisis service continuum with multiple projects throughout the County rather than strictly following the Crisis Now Model. Placer is unique among counties as it has abundant County general fund dollars that support these programs in development and operation. The Yolo County team are now brainstorming ways to achieve similar programmatic goals that are right sized for our county and budget.

j) MHSA 3-Year Planning Process—

The Yolo County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 3-Year Community Planning Process (CPP) is currently convening listening sessions to collect information from key stakeholders, community partners and residents to help inform priority areas. This process is being modeled around the previous 3-year expansive community engagement process. 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.

k) Suicide Prevention of Yolo County (SPYC) Hotline Closure and Call Transition—

Suicide Prevention of Yolo County (SPYC) closed their suicide prevention hotline operations/ call center on February 15th. SPYC's Executive Director confirmed that they closed the call center due to a combination of staffing challenges and a significant increase in call volume due to the launch of 988 as the new National Suicide Prevention Hotline number, coupled with specific requirements as a 988 call center that go into effect 7/1/23 that they did not believe they would be able to meet. SPYC has been a fixture in the Yolo County community for the past 59 years and has served thousands and thousands of people in crisis. SPYC intends to keep their physical location open through the end of the fiscal year and will be keeping several individuals on staff during that time.

In terms of local impact, SPYC served as the Northern Region Suicide Prevention Hotline through a

contract Yolo County HHSA holds with CalMHSA. Through that contract, SPYC supported suicide prevention hotline calls for Yolo County and several other counties in our region. CalMHSA serves as a consortium for this project. The calls that previously came through SPYC's direct line are now being re-routed through 988. All 988 calls will be re-routed to another 988 lifeline call center (likely the 988 call center in Sacramento which is run by WellSpace). The statewide 988 coordination is through Didi Hirsch in Los Angeles as the hub for 988/National Suicide Prevention Lifeline implementation in California.

Regarding HHSA's role and next steps, HHSA immediately reached out to CalMHSA to request a meeting to discuss our contract for the Northern Region Suicide Prevention Hotline and to brainstorm potential solutions. Additionally, HHSA was quickly connected to the Executive Director of WellSpace in Sacramento County, the 988 call center provider for the Sacramento region. WellSpace stands at the ready to support Yolo and other impacted counties during this transition, to the extent possible and that they will field all calls that come to their call center. This unfolded rather quickly and is a dynamic situation, so we are continuing to assess emerging issues and identify potential solutions. In the meantime, it is critical to refer all Yolo County residents to contact 988 if they are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.