

Mental Health Director's Report

May 1st, 2024

A) Current Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

- Children's System of Care- The RFP for the Children's System of Care, which includes children's Full-Service Partnership, Community Based Mental Health Programs, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, and Wraparound programs was released on January 25th and closed on February 29th. Intent to award letters have been issued.
- Therapeutic Foster Care- The RFP for Therapeutic Foster Care is being drafted and will be released in Spring 2024.

B) Health and Human Services Budget Presentation

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) will provide the Yolo County Board of Supervisors with an informational presentation regarding the FY 24/25 budget at the upcoming May 7th Board of Supervisors meeting. An overall County budget presentation is also planned for that date. The agenda item and presentation materials will be posted to the Board of Supervisors agenda website the Thursday prior to the meeting. [Board of Supervisors Meeting Agendas & Minutes | Yolo County](#)

C) Crisis Continuum Updates

Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Benefit

HHS continues to monitor call volume, outcomes, and billing related to the implementation of the Medi-Cal mobile crisis benefit to assess the fiscal structure of the current pilot. We will continue with the current model through May as we assess a model that is clinically appropriate, fiscally sustainable, and a good fit for the geography of Yolo County and local needs of the Yolo County Medi-Cal population.

High Tech Call Center Transition

HHS has successfully transitioned our former 24/7 access and crisis line to a high-tech call center with a new provider, WellSpace Health. The transition has gone well thus far and this new and expanded scope of work will allow for improved integration between the County's 24/7 access and crisis line, 988, and the Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis benefit screening and deployment process.

Receiving Center Progress

HHS continues to make good process with County General Services and the contracted Architectural Design firm on construction documents for the receiving center remodel. We have reached an important milestone of 50% construction documents. HHS is concurrently working on issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to seek information about the operation of Crisis Receiving Centers, including staffing ratios, revenue generation, licensing, and utilization which will help inform a high-quality Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operations of the Receiving Center that will result in a well-developed contract for the operations of these critical services.

D) Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Progress

Due to unanticipated delays with actual budget information for this fiscal year, projected Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue for next fiscal year, and a proposed budget for next fiscal year, the Annual Update process is currently delayed. We anticipate receiving the fiscal information needed in the next several weeks and I will keep this Board apprised of an updated timeline to have the Annual Update draft prepared for LMHB review, public

comment, and public hearing and apologize for these unanticipated delays.

E) Partnership Health Plan and Dignity Contract Expiration and Local Impacts

Partnership HealthPlan provides the managed care for Medi-Cal recipients in Yolo County. Like other major insurers, Partnership contracts with a variety of doctors, hospital systems, and healthcare providers to provide care for their members. Partnership and Common Spirit (Dignity Health) have had a long-standing contractual relationship to provide medical services to Yolo County Medi-Cal recipients, and as you have likely heard, that contract expired on March 31st when both parties were unable to execute a new contract despite ongoing negotiations. As a result, approximately 17,000 Yolo County Medi-Cal patients, and many others across California, need to find new primary and specialty care provision.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors has been very engaged in this situation locally and has sent letters to the Chief Executive Officer of Partnership Health Plan and to Dr. Mark Ghaly, the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency. It is important to note that the contract for mild to moderate mental health services provided by Dignity Health is a separate and distinct contract with Partnership via Carelon and HHS has been assured that those services are not impacted by the medical contract expiration.

Partnership HealthPlan has provided the following guidance for members impacted by this situation, which we imagine is incredibly confusing and challenging to navigate:

Under Health and Safety Code 1373.96, Partnership is able to arrange for the member and/or their family to continue to see their current Dignity doctor until treatment is completed for certain conditions (pregnancy, cancer treatment, etc.). However, their Dignity doctor must be willing to continue seeing the member. Partnership and Dignity already agreed to a mutually agreeable rate for these continuity-of-care services.

If you have a constituent who needs assistance getting needed medical care, please have them contact Partnership. If a constituent's Dignity doctor is choosing not to see patients with continuity-of-care needs or if they have general health care needs, we will provide assistance finding care options. In Yolo County, we are fortunate to have established contracts with UC Davis Health, Sutter, and others to help meet our members' needs as we continue to work toward an agreement with Dignity. Options for accessing care may include telehealth options, and/or transportation services as needed. Our Member Services team is ready to help - (800) 863-4155. TTY users, call 711