

Director's Report

January 18, 2017



Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director
Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness
(805) 681-5220 ♦ <http://countyofsb.org/behavioral-wellness>

DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

CMS Audit of PHF a Success: Gerardo Puga-Cervantes, LMFT, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Program Manager, states that the recent CMS Audit was a success and PHF leadership wants to thank everyone who participated and provided support to PHF staff. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) survey revisit occurred on 12/12/2016. The surveyors were impressed with the overall improvements the facility had undergone and provided positive comments regarding excellent patient care. They also commented about the honesty and courtesy of the PHF staff. Special thanks to all Nursing staff, Social Services staff, Recreational Therapist, Recovery Assistants, Dietician and Administrative Office Professionals for making our CMS Survey revisit a success! Kudos as well to our Infection Control and Pharmacy contractors!

Behavioral Wellness Commissioners Named: On January 17, 2017 Das Williams (First District) was appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors as the Board of Supervisors representative on the newly formed Behavioral Wellness Commission, which will hold a special meeting on January 30, 2017. Thirteen members have been named as Behavioral Wellness Commissioners:

First District

- 1) Wayne Mellinger -Term expiring January 2020

Second District

- 1) Alicia Journey - Term expiring January 2018
- 2) Sharon Rumberger - Term expiring January 2019
- 3) Judy Blue - Term expiring January 2020
- 4) Ruth Ackerman - Term expiring January 2020

Third District

- 1) Tom Franklin - Term expiring January 2020
- 2) Peter Claydon - Term expiring January 2020
- 3) Rev. Mary Moreno Richardson -Term expiring January 2020

Fourth District

- 1) Sharon Byrne - Term expiring January 2018
- 2) Edwin Weaver - Term expiring January 2019

Fifth District

- 1) John Ray Truman - Term expiring January 2019
- 2) Charles Huffines - Term expiring January 2020
- 3) Ann Eldridge - Term expiring January 2020

As reported last month, the new Behavioral Wellness Commission is a merger of the Mental Health Commission and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems.

Interpreter Services Expanded: The Cultural Competence and Diversity Action Team reports that the Department's current contract with a local translation services company has been expanded to provide interpreter services countywide in all clinics and programs. In-person interpretation is available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Mixteco and other indigenous Mexican languages, Tagalog and Cantonese. An *Interpreter Use Protocol* has been developed to guide staff on coordination and proper use of interpreter services.

Peer Navigators to be Hired for Adult Clinics: According to the Peer Action Team, recruitment is underway for three Peer Navigators, one located at each Behavioral Wellness adult clinic. Peer Navigators will be hired to provide assistance for clients and families who come to each service site. Peer Navigators will help remove personal and environmental obstacles to healthcare access and empower clients to advance their recovery.

Highway Patrol Trained: The Crisis Action Team reports that Jonathan Eymann, MFT, Interim Manager for Crisis Services, participated in three trainings of California Highway Patrol officers in 2016. Approximately 130 officers gained a better understanding of the law and process behind the writing of an application for a 5150 hold. Officers were given insight into criteria, learned of the mental health crisis team member's decision-making process and learned about the legal obligation to always look for the least restrictive means to provide safety and clinically appropriate treatment. Officers were also given direct numbers for each regional mobile crisis line and the crisis services manager and were invited to call for assistance or consultation as needed.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Impact of ACA in Combating Opioid Epidemic Detailed in New Report: On January 11 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a new report showing the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) impact in combating the nation's opioid epidemic. The key findings are:

- **Substance Misuse/Mental Health Hospitalizations** – The share of hospitalizations for substance use or mental health disorders in which the patient was uninsured fell from 22 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 (just before the ACA's major coverage provisions took effect) to about 14 percent by the end of 2014.
- **Medicaid Expansion** – In states that expanded Medicaid under the ACA, the uninsured share of substance use or mental health disorder hospitalizations fell from about 20 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 to about 5 percent by mid-2015.
- **Mental Health Care** – Between 2010 and 2015, the share of people foregoing mental health care due to cost has fallen by about one-third for people below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **ACA Repeal and overdose deaths** – The states with the highest drug overdose deaths also are projected to experience dramatic increases in their uninsured rates if the ACA were repealed. The top three – West Virginia, New Hampshire, and Kentucky – would see their uninsured rates nearly or more than triple if the ACA were repealed, as would Massachusetts.

The report is available here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/continuing-progress-opioid-epidemic-role-affordable-care-act>

National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week is January 23-29: National Drug & Alcohol Facts WeekSM links students with scientists and other experts to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens get from the internet, social media, TV, movies, music, or from friends. It was launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to stimulate educational events in communities so teens can learn what science has taught us about drug use and addiction. More information is [here](#).

SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR

- **Change Agent Meeting:** Change agents meet the fourth Wednesday of every month 9 – 11 am except during quarterly in-person meetings, which are 9 am – 12 noon. Video conferencing is available at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, Small conference room; 117 N. B Street, Lompoc, and Large conference Room, 500 West Foster Road, Santa Maria. Questions: Nathan Post, npost@sbcbswell.org.
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meets at 301 N. R Street every other month on the third Tuesday. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jeanie Sleigh Jeanie.Sleigh@sbcphd.org or Sandy Fahey sfahey@sbcbswell.org.
- **Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership:** meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:15 pm at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Amanda Pyper, ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.
- **Santa Barbara Children’s Regional Partnership:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Amanda Pyper, ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.
- **Santa Maria Children’s Regional Partnership Meeting** is held every 3rd Monday of the month at 10 am in the large meeting room at the Foster Road Clinic. Questions: Amanda Pyper, epatarias@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
- **Santa Maria Adult Regional Partnership** occurs every 3rd Monday of the month at 11 am in the large meeting room at the Foster Road Clinic. Questions: Amanda Pyper, epatarias@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
- **The Housing, Empowerment, Action and Recovery Team (HEART)** meets the second Wednesday of every other month, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Locations: Behavioral Wellness Conference Room 261 and Santa Maria Annex via videoconference. Contact Laura Zeitz, lazeitz@sbcbswell.org.
- **The Cultural Competency Action Team** meets the second Friday of each month, 9:30-11:00 am, Locations: Behavioral Wellness Conference Room and Santa Maria Annex via videoconference. Contact Yaneris Muñiz, ymuniz@sbcbswell.org.
- **The Peer Action Team** meets the third Thursday of the Month from 2 – 4:30 pm. Contact Tina Wooton, twooton@sbcbswell.org, regarding the location.
- **The Crisis Action Team** meets the second Thursday of the month, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Santa Barbara Children’s large conference room 119. Contact Jonathan Eymann, jeymann@sbcbswell.org.
- **The Children’s System of Care Action Team** meets the 4th Thursday of the month, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon. SELPA Conference Room, 240 E. Hwy. 246, Suite 200, Buellton CA 93127. Contact Ana Vicuña, avicuna@sbcbswell.org.