

# Director's Report

August 21, 2019



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

## DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

**Coping in the Aftermath of Mass Violence and Shootings:** Coping in the aftermath of the recent mass casualty shootings across our nation is difficult for everyone, but compounded for those in our community still recovering from the recent mass casualty shooting at the Casa Grande Mobile Estates in Santa Maria, just over six weeks ago. Over the last week the reports of mass violence and shootings have plagued the news. Despite the resiliency of our community, these events always interrupt our sense of order and safety. Those with no personal connection to a tragic event may be impacted as well as those with a personal connection or having recently experienced a traumatic event similar in nature. When a traumatic event is human caused with the intent of harming others, the impact is all the greater.

Helpful tools for coping include:

- **Physical Self-Care.** Be attentive to eating, sleeping, exercising and maintaining as normal of a daily routine as possible.
- **Tending to your emotional health.** Know that others are experiencing emotional reactions as well. Be patient with yourself and others. Spend time talking with others. Maintain connections with family and friends. Seek counseling as needed.
- **Limit media exposure.** Though important to stay informed, try to limit TV and print media which can exacerbate stress symptoms.
- **Be attentive to others who may need extra support.** If you are feeling well, pay attention to the needs of others who may need extra support. Signs of distress may show through changes in eating, sleeping, energy level and mood. Connect with others. Help connect others to counseling when needed.

The Behavioral Wellness Access Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-888-868-1649.

**Family Service Agency Merges with Little House by the Park to Create Increase in Services in Guadalupe:** Family Service Agency (FSA) of Santa Barbara County and Guadalupe Little House by the Park have merged, effective July 1, 2019. FSA is the legal entity, and Little House by the Park's name, identity, vision, and good work in the community will continue uninterrupted.

Bringing the strengths of both organizations together creates the opportunity for increased services in Guadalupe, as well as greater stability, organizational efficiency and the benefits of combined staff expertise.

**Mental Health Services Act Innovations Technology Suite Update:** In effort to shorten its name, the Statewide Mental Health Services Act Innovations Technology Suite has adopted a new name: **Help@Hand** Project. The Santa Barbara **Help@Hand** team has created a volunteer regional focus group to aid in the development of a Consumer Mobile App Guide that will be available on-line and at community resource tables. This guide will highlight which mobile applications Santa Barbara consumers use and will rate the mobile application.

Digital health literacy needs and concerns around engaging with mobile technology will be discussed at the regional Stakeholder Community Sessions: **Technology for Your Wellbeing**. Live Spanish translation will be available.

**Date: August 19th, 2019 Time: 10AM-11:30AM**

Santa Maria Recovery Learning Community  
225 E. Inger Drive, Suite 101A Santa Maria, CA 93454

**Date: August 19th, 2019 Time: 1PM-2:30PM**

Helping Hands of Lompoc 1PM-2:30PM  
513 North G St., Lompoc, CA 93436

**Date: August 20th, 2019 Time: 2PM-3:30PM**

Mental Wellness Center- Second Floor Conference Room  
617 Garden St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

For more information on the **Help@Hand** project email Vanessa Ramos: [vramos@sbcbswell.org](mailto:vramos@sbcbswell.org)

**New Behavioral Wellness Policy and Procedure Coordinator Appointed:** Through a competitive recruitment process, Qiuana Lopez has been selected and accepted the position for the Behavioral Wellness Policy and Procedure Coordinator. Qiuana will begin in this role on August 26, 2019, working within the Office of Quality Care and Strategy Management. Qiuana earned her Bachelor degree in Linguistics/English from San Diego State University, her Master's degree in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin and her Doctorate degree in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin. Qiuana has been employed with the Department of Behavioral Wellness for 5 years working as a Department Business Specialist within the Contracts Division. In addition, she is active as a lecturer for UCSB in the Linguistics Department and teaches courses on the intersections of language, race, gender, sexuality and power. Prior to her work with Behavioral Wellness, she acted as a Post-doctoral research fellow with the University of California Santa Barbara. Among her many duties in this role, she authored and published several articles as well as researched and presented on research findings at conferences. Prior to this, she worked as a Linguistics instructor, English Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin. Qiuana brings tremendous experience to the Policy and Procedure Coordination, including her written and verbal communication, research, analysis, problem solving and drafting and negotiation of contracts.

**Behavioral Wellness has a New QR Code:** Yes, it is true...Behavioral Wellness has a new QR code! What is a QR code? QR is short for Quick Response. QR codes originated in Japan and are now very common worldwide. With current versions of phones, most can read a QR code simply from taking a picture using the phone app and special QR applications are no longer needed. By taking a picture of the code and clicking on the URL which pops up, you will be automatically directed to the Behavioral Wellness website (yes, it truly is that simple!). You will begin to see our code listed on brochures, flyers and outreach materials as an easy way for the community to access information on the department and services offered. In addition to QR codes having the capability to store a tremendous amount of data to be accessed by others, we can also see how many are using the code to access information on the Department. Please feel free to share the Behavioral Wellness QR code anytime you want readers to have quick access to our website, services, contact information and more!



**Leadership Transitions with Cultural Competency and Ethnic Services and Peer Employee Empowerment:** We want to recognize and thank **Tina Wooton** for her many years of dedicated and compassionate service within the Department of Behavioral Wellness and for our community, as the Behavioral Wellness Peer Empowerment Manager. Tina has made the decision to begin her retirement, effective September 11, after many years of service. On September 1, **Maria Arteaga** will move from the interim role as the Peer Empowerment Manager to the Civil Service role. In addition, Maria will assume leadership of Cultural Competency and Ethnic Services. Prior to joining Behavioral Wellness, Maria filled a similar role for Ventura County and it excited to continue this function in Santa Barbara County. We would also like to thank Maria for overseeing Policy and Procedures for Behavioral Wellness.

**New and Revised Policies Approved:** Behavioral Wellness frequently updates policies to reflect enhancements and changes to programs and practices. The following policies were recently approved and are available on the Behavioral Wellness website at <http://countyofsb.org/behavioral-wellness/policies>. You can find policies approved within the last 6 months under the tab “View Only RECENT Policies”. You can also search alphabetically, by category, or by keyword.

1. **Progress Note (REVISED)** – This policy was created to describe clinical medical record documentation standards that are reflective of best practices and health care ethics for the accurate and timely completion of progress notes.
2. **Peer Review Process (REVISED)**-This policy establishes a formal peer review process for psychiatry services at the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility in accordance with state regulation and standards of professional practice.
3. **Tuberculosis (TB) Screening for Patients (REVISED)** - This policy describes the process for tuberculosis screening for all patients at the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility.
4. **Staff Orientation and Training for Seclusion and Restraint (REVISED)**- This policy ensures that staff orientation and training requirements for the implementation of seclusion and restraint at the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility are consistent and comply with the provisions of applicable state and federal laws and standards of professional practice.

**National Health Center Week:** National Health Center Week took place August 4-10, 2019. National Health Center Week (NHCW) is an annual celebration that raises awareness about the mission and accomplishments of the nearly [1,400 local health centers](#) in the United States. This year's theme is "rooted in communities," which highlights the long history of health care homes creating innovative solutions to pressing local health issues. In honor of this important week, Behavioral Wellness was busy in the community sharing of our resources and services. On August 8, [Michael Allen, West County Crisis Services Manager](#); [Thelma Macias-Guerra, MFT, Lompoc Children's Clinic Supervisor](#); [Kelly Griffin, MFT, Mental Health Practitioner](#); [Maria Orozco, Recovery Assistant](#); [Myra Ruiz, Caseworker](#); and [Cathy Harris, RN](#) provided support at a resource table at the Lompoc Health Care Center and Partners Health Fair. Green backpacks filled with mental health awareness items, resource materials, and homemade cookies were shared with the community. The team was also able to highlight the new Children's Crisis Triage program with the local community.

On August 18, [Enrique Bautista, Patients' Rights Advocate Assistant](#), led the hosting of a resource table for the annual Family Day in the Park/Healthy Kids Day held at Waller Park in Santa Maria. On August 30, [Enrique](#) will also be helping to support Behavioral Wellness at the Santa Maria Valley Labor Picnic Day scheduled to take place at Pioneer Park. Both events are free events for the community and will allow Behavioral Wellness the opportunity to engage with the community and provide information on our services.

**RENEW '22 Ice Cream Social:** Countywide RENEW '22 Ice Cream Socials took place in the month of August and were a great success. Lompoc Behavioral Wellness staff reported greatly enjoying the event which was joined by nearly 80 participants who came from Behavioral Wellness, Public Health Department and the Department of Social Services. Suggestions and ideas of RENEW '22 initiative ideas were shared to have been flowing. The Ice Cream Social in Santa Barbara was so well attended, that ice cream was reported to have run out before some of the participants arrived. A good sign that attendance exceeded expectations! Some Santa Maria staff also participated in the Ice Cream Social in Santa Maria.

### **South Counties Regional Partnership Update:**

**Adult Regional Partnership meeting** took place on July 15, 2019 and was well attended by a variety of collaborating organizational partners. The Sheriff's Department shared that Wellpath is now the medical health provider on site for their services. The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) joined and highlighted their age Transition Age Youth and Adult programming within Behavioral Wellness. [Tammy Summers](#), Behavioral Wellness ACT and AOT Manager, shared an update that she has gathered ACT reviews from all regional teams and will soon be reporting back the findings as well as providing ongoing quarterly reports. The [Calle Real Adult Outpatient Clinic](#) highlighted a new pilot program for clients in a maintenance phase of their treatment and who need only medication management services. This pilot program is working in collaboration with the Mental Wellness Center. An update was given on the Forensic Services. Highlights included transformations taking place within the RISE program, a report produced by the Sheriff's Department which highlights those incarcerated 5 times or more in a given year, upcoming grants which may fund diversion programs and status updates of the Co-Response Teams.

Behavioral Wellness Chief of Compliance, [Celeste Andersen](#), provided an update on the universal release of information form. Public Health Department Sherie Davis, joined the meetings and shared of her role as

the Behavioral Health Specialist with Public Health and provided an updated on clients seen for behavioral health and/or co-occurring substance use disorder short term treatment. Lastly, the Family Service Agency presented on their collaboration with the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara to serve a wide range of residents with housing needs in the area of retention, housing support and housing stability. This project is a grant funded pilot program.

### Children's Regional Partnership meeting

The Children's Regional Partnership meeting took place on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Shantal Hover from the Public Health Department, graciously joined the meeting and presented on the dangers of e-cigarettes with our youth. The focus of the Public Health Department is in influencing policy on a State and City level. A recent study has shown that the use rate of e-cigarettes doubled from 2016 to 2018 from 6% to 10 % in 9<sup>th</sup> graders, 8% to 15% in 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The tobacco companies have bought shares in the companies like "JUUL" and are targeting youth with flavored tobacco. These e-cigarettes are called, "pods" and are easy to conceal, and do not give off as much of a smoke plume or smell. These pods look like flash drives or candy so are difficult to detect. Youth are getting them mostly from local vendors who sell to youth. More focus to come on this important area and appreciation to the Public Health Department for sharing this recent information.

**Lompoc (West County) Regional Partnership Update:** The Lompoc Regional Partnership meeting held on August 7 was the first in many years which was joined by all programs including Children's, Adult, Crisis (Mobile and Triage) and ACT. In addition to over 40 participants, Pam Fisher and Natalia Rossi joined the meeting. The meeting began with fresh fruit smoothies and meditation music. Discussion took place regarding staff identifying professional development and training needs. A summary of the many accomplishments which have occurred in the Lompoc region in the past 2 years (when this region operated without a Regional Manager) were shared. Tony Hollenback, Lompoc Regional Manager, recognized the recent shootings having taken place in El Paso, Texas and Dayton Ohio and asked the group "what sustains you in doing this work?" Stories of strength and courage were shared by all. The next Regional Partnership meeting will take place in the Fall.

Another collaborative meeting which recently occurred in the Lompoc region was the Lompoc Primary and Behavioral Health Care Providers meeting. At this meeting, Adam Horn, Pharm.D. at CenCal presented on the unfolding opioid interventions by CenCal. CenCal has a 5 Phase Implementation Plan and Phase 5 will be effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. CenCal prescribers will receive notices about CenCal limiting physicians from being able to prescribe benzodiazepines and opioids concurrently (without special authorization), even if prescribed by several different physicians. Recovery H2L shared of an upcoming event on August 1 from 1PM – 3PM with speaker Chuck Hughes, Consumer Advocate. Public Health will be hosting their annual Lompoc Health Care Collaborative and Partners Health Fair to celebrate National Health Center Week on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. This is expected to be the largest of this event yet and this year will include food trucks, adoptable pets, resources, local agency information, and more. Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) is partnering with Hancock College to host a suicide prevention forum at the PCPA which is scheduled to take place on September 13. In addition, TMHA has a weekly family support group for families struggling with a member who is living with mental illness. This group takes place every Wednesday at 12 Noon at the Lompoc ACT building and is offered in English and Spanish language.

**North County Regional Partnership Update:** The Santa Maria's North County Regional Partnership Meetings are held monthly at the Santa Maria Adult Outpatient Clinic located at 500 W Foster Road in Santa Maria, CA (large conference room):

- Children's Regional Partnership Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays @ 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- Adult Regional Partnership Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Santa Maria regional partnership meetings focus on promoting the expansion of cross-sector collaboration through strengthening and sustaining key community partnerships, such as those with the county of Santa Barbara's Department of Public Health, Department of Social Services, law enforcement, CenCal Health and a variety of community-based organizations (CBO) providing mental health and/or substance abuse treatment to children, transitional aged youth (TAY) and adults in the Santa Maria region. The partnership meetings in July focused on Behavioral Wellness' implementation of the Children's Transitional Services (CTS) weekly meeting that now provides a supportive, clinical collaboration forum for new referrals and transfers to be triaged to the appropriate levels of care. A presentation was also provided by Richelle Bucayu, LPT, MA regarding Telecare Corporation's new Crisis Residential Treatment Program in Santa Maria.

**Santa Maria Outpatient Clinic Beautification Project:** Santa Maria outpatient clinic leadership has been working with the City of Santa Maria and other providers for some time on several beautification project ideas. This work is now paying off! A new bench has recently been installed on the exterior of the building and additional work has begun on beautifying the landscape exterior. Clinic leadership will be working to obtain a weather shield be installed over the bench and eventually a second bench installed. Additional goals for this work include clean-up of the side walk path across the road and along the way from the bench which leads to the clinic to assure this path is ADA approved and can easily accommodate clients using wheelchairs or walkers.

**Alcohol and Drug Program Update:** The County Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) is working on two (2) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) grants that promise to engage, stabilize and treat clients with opioid use disorder (OUD). The first, **MAT Access Points**, is a pilot project that will provide MAT to clients who enter our South County Crisis Services Unit (CSU). Individuals who are clients of Behavioral Wellness, or contacted by Behavioral Wellness Crisis Services teams, who have an opiate addiction and are interested in treatment can begin MAT treatment at the South County Crisis Service (SCCS). The grant funds two half-time Peer Recovery Assistants who will be available to provide screening and education on MAT services. Individuals who are screened and are needing methadone treatment will be linked to Aegis Treatment Center in Santa Barbara. Individuals screened and found to be appropriate for other MAT treatment (Vivাত্রol, Suboxone, etc) can begin the induction process at SCCS and receive their first dose of MAT treatment. Individuals will then be connected to ongoing MAT treatment providers either within Behavioral Wellness or with community treatment providers. The second grant, **MAT in criminal Justice Settings**, is a collaboration between the Sheriff and Behavioral Wellness Departments. This grant will fund a full time jail discharge planner who will begin MAT services with inmates and then link them to contracted treatment providers once the inmates are released from custody. Both grants will be coordinated with other MAT projects in the area including the Bridge Clinic at Cottage Hospital and other MAT grants that will focus on

Isla Vista and Goleta. In combination with a robust overdose prevention and reversal program, including naloxone distribution, these grants promise to expand MAT throughout Santa Barbara County.

ADP will work with community based organizational provider, Good Samaritan, in establishing a Sobering Center in Santa Barbara. As part of the Prop 47 Grant, the Sobering Center will divert individuals who would be better served with drug and alcohol interventions than incarceration or emergency room admissions. The Sobering Center will divert individuals who need treatment services away from less indicated punitive or medically intensive services, thus serving their needs as well as those of the community. Step down housing, intensive case management and integrated treatment services will be used in combination with the Sobering Center to provide a full range of support to clients with complex needs. Care coordination will be key. Behavioral Wellness ADP is developing a comprehensive Care Coordination policy, including the hiring of two (2) care coordinators, to ensure that MAT and other services are fully integrated for client recovery success.

**Cultural Competence and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT) Update:** The Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT) meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month from 9:30 -11 in the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic small conference room with video conference available. The team is focus on many projects which fall under active core goals of the CCDAT. Some of these projects include the Implicit Bias training and research of impact, Cultural Competency Needs Assessment, Tech Suite Help@Hand digital literacy forum and many outreach events. The active goals of the team include Digital Marketing including the Tech Suite Help@Hand project, working with the Faith Based Community, Outreach and Training, and Aligning the team’s efforts with the Departments active Cultural Competency Plan. One highlight of the August CCDAT meeting was having BJ Williams join the meeting and share of his work with the team. BJ Williams is the creator of *Can I Be Vulnerable?* (CIBV). The CCDAT shared in watching a recent interview with BJ on the KTLA morning news which can be viewed [here](#) or by going to this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T95rIXNH7dA> and learned of the impactful work taking place through BJs leadership of CIBV and how this work may be incorporated into Santa Barbara County.

**Crisis Action Team Update:** South County Crisis Services began a pilot Co-Response program with the Santa Barbara Police Department in July. A Behavioral Wellness Crisis Services staff member is paired up with a Santa Barbara Police Department officer for 3 ten hour shifts per week. The Co-Response team responds to mental health crisis calls within Santa Barbara city jurisdiction and when appropriate provides crisis de-escalation, 5150 evaluations, safety planning and linkage to mental health services. The Co-Response pilot program is geared towards improving crisis response time, reducing patrol deputies time engaging in mental health calls, and diverting individuals in a mental health crisis from jail and Emergency Departments when appropriate.

The Department of Behavioral Wellness released its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The plan has 6 main objectives and 4 of those are directly related to Crisis Services: Increasing Access to Substance Abuse Services, Crisis Co-Response programs, Development of Behavioral Health Care Centers and use of Non-Medical Transport. The countywide Crisis Services Teams are excited to be such an integral part of the departmental Strategic Plan and look forward to working together with the department and all our community stakeholders to achieve the Strategic Plan goals. The full Strategic Plan can be viewed on our department website [here](#) or by visiting this link: <http://www.countyofsb.org/behavioral-wellness/asset.c/5005>.

**Children’s System of Care (CSOC) Action Team Update:** The CSOC Action Team Meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm at the Buellton Recreation Center (301 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room A, Buellton, CA). The most recent meeting hosted a dynamic discussion on mission and purpose. In addition, discussion was held on seeking, identifying and applying for grant funding to strengthen the 211 Information Line available in Santa Barbara County. The team also discussed enhancing the awareness of Behavioral Health “red flags” in the community including local businesses, libraries and faith based organizations to aid in identification of those in need of support before a crisis occurs.

The CSOC committee approved its **new mission statement** in July as follows: *The CSOC Action Team integrates a wide-variety of leaders and stakeholders invested in cross-sector collaboration and strengthening partnerships to ensure access and high quality behavioral/mental health care to children, adolescents and transitional aged youth (TAY) throughout Santa Barbara County.*

CSOC’s Vision Statements (i.e. topic areas of focus) were also identified as follows: *Trauma-Informed Care; Trauma-Informed Organizational Cultures; Community Partnerships; Community Resiliency; Cultural Humility; and, Systemic Transformation.*

**Client Family Member Advisory Committee (CFMAC)/Peer Action Team (PAT):** The action team continues to move forward with defining and implementing our goals for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. At the July meeting CFMAT members formed subcommittee workgroups to work on the following goals:

1. Develop the “*Together in Our Journey*” Newsletter
2. Peer Trainings
3. Outreach & Engagement to increase CFMAT meeting participation
4. Creating a pool of change agents to draw from to participate in interviewing panels and may mentor peers to empower them to help other peers.

Furthermore, our special guest, George Kaufmann, provided information about the amazing work NAMI is undertaking in their Peer to Peer Education Program. He shared that the NAMI Peer to Peer Education Program is an 8-session recovery-focused course that teaches individuals to be empowered, informed and to improve communication with other peers and their family. Mr. Kaufmann further mentioned that NAMI is seeking peers to train and certify to teach future Peer to Peer classes. Interested peers can contact George Kaufmann at [g.kaufmann@cox.net](mailto:g.kaufmann@cox.net).

Finally, Vanessa Ramos provided the team members with the following MHSA Innovation Technology Suite Project update. Digital health literacy needs and concerns around engaging with mobile technology will be discussed at the regional Stakeholder Community Sessions: Technology for Your Wellbeing. Live Spanish translation will be available. Stakeholder Community Sessions will take place:

- **Date: August 19th, 2019 Time: 10AM-11:30AM**  
Santa Maria Recovery Learning Community  
225 E. Inger Drive, Suite 101A Santa Maria, CA 93454
- **Date: August 19th, 2019 Time: 1PM-2:30PM**  
Helping Hands of Lompoc 1PM-2:30PM  
513 North G St., Lompoc, CA 93436

- **Date: August 20th, 2019 Time: 2PM-3:30PM**  
Mental Wellness Center- Second Floor Conference Room  
617 Garden St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

For more information on the Help@Hand project email Vanessa Ramos: [vramos@sbcbswell.org](mailto:vramos@sbcbswell.org)

The next CFMAC/Peer Action Team meeting can be attended in-person September 19<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-2:30PM at the following locations:

- **In Santa Barbara:** Administration 315 Camino Del Remedio- Conf Room 261 videoconference room
- **In Santa Maria:** Santa Maria Adult Clinic 500 W Foster Rd- Annex videoconference room
- **In Lompoc:** Lompoc Childrens Clinic 401 E. Ocean Ave- New Port Harbor Room

Teleconferencing is available using the following phone number and pin:

- **Server phone number:** (855)748-3535 Code: 321269

**Change Agents:** Change Agents met in Santa Maria for a “retreat” which allowed for presentations on all process improvement projects. Change Agents delivered project presentations to Behavioral Wellness Supervisors and Managers. Meeting participants were able to tour the Santa Maria Outpatient clinic and view the mural that was recently completed by Behavioral Wellness staff, [Juan Carlos Gutierrez](#), along with gain insight from Santa Maria clientele, on another active PDSA Change Agent project taking place at the Santa Maria Adult Outpatient clinic. Many clinics and programs have completed process improvement projects and are in the process of brainstorming and developing new projects.

**Housing Services (HEART) Action Team:** The Residences at Depot Street, located in Santa Maria and funded through MHSA, is experiencing a several week delay in unit occupancy and is tentatively planned to open in February of 2020. Polly’s House, a Mental Wellness facility, is targeted to open the first week in September and will house up to 10 individuals being diverted from or stepping down from out of county placements. Updates on the tax credit awards for the first No Place Like Home project at West Cox St. will be announced after September 25, 2019.

Behavioral Wellness has three contracts for Homelessness Prevention beginning September 1, 2019. Contractors for service provision include include Good Samaritan, People Helping People and Legal Aid. LeaseUp Santa Barbara has launched. LeaseUp is a new program that helps landlords navigate the process of filling units with people in need of housing. This program will help local providers enroll to be part of the Mobile App to assist in finding units.

The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) is finally well under way. Through this program, there are 4 capital housing development projects taking place. The projects include:

- West Cox in conjunction with No Place Like Home
- Fighting Back – Single Family Home purchased in Santa Maria (4 bedrooms) and undergoing repairs
- Salvation Army – Located in the City of Santa Barbara on Alisos Street
- Good Samaritan - Small Houses in Lompoc which are currently in the permitting process.

**Forensic Action Team Update:** The **Forensic Action Team** meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday, from 2-3:30 p.m.

On August 9, 2019, the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) unanimously voted to release \$3 million from its reserve funds to the Department of Behavioral Wellness towards funding an 8-16 bed Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC). The facility would be dedicated to the needs of people living with severe and persistent mental illness who have been involved in the criminal justice system. Individuals would transition to this locked and secured facility from the jail or inpatient treatment facilities. The county plans to construct the MHRC on the site of a former methadone treatment clinic on the Calle Real Campus in Santa Barbara, adjacent to other Behavioral Wellness facilities and programs. Because MHRC services are not reimbursable through Medi-Cal funding, the county has opted to utilize this funding source to address this pressing community need. Keep your eyes on future Director's Reports for updates on this exciting project.

The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2019 at the Behavioral Wellness Children's Mental Health Services building, room 119, at 429 N. San Antonio Rd. in Santa Barbara. Anyone wishing to join by videoconference may contact John Lewis in advance at 805-450-2545 to make arrangements.

**Kevin Hines to Speak in Santa Barbara at the Marjorie Luke Theatre:** In the recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, during the month of September, the Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Health and Wellness Team is offering a unique opportunity to attend a Speaking Presentation by Kevin Hines on September 16th at the Marjorie Luke Theatre at 6pm. The SBCC Health and Wellness Team is excited about this amazing opportunity and are asking for community support in circulating the event flyer and eventbrite link.

Santa Barbara City College is dedicated to increasing awareness and building public understanding of the importance of Suicide Prevention in our community and most importantly, how to access help and support.

Click [here](#) for a link to the eventbrite event or go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kevin-hines-survivor-storyteller-filmmaker-suicide-preventionawareness-event-tickets-68880127315>

For questions regarding the event, please contact Lacey Peters at [ljpeters1@pipeline.sbcc.edu](mailto:ljpeters1@pipeline.sbcc.edu) or call her at 805-965-0581 at ext 3431.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS**

**Adults in Immigrant Families Report Avoiding Routine Activities Because of Immigration Concerns:** In a July report issued by the Urban Institute, highlights were shared of the changes in federal immigration policies and heightened immigration enforcement over the last several years have caused fear and insecurity for many immigrant families across the country. In addition to stories of rising fear among families reported in the press, several studies have documented evidence of widespread anxiety and instability among immigrant families and children. Beyond avoiding participation in public programs, many immigrant families may be changing how they go about their daily lives. Reports show immigrant families

increasingly avoiding routine activities, such as interacting with teachers or school officials, health care providers, and the police, which poses risks for their well-being and the communities in which they live. The full article can be viewed [here](#).

**Treating Toxic Stress in Kids a Top Priority for California's First Surgeon General:** In a recent article published by the New York Times, Dr. Nadine Harris Burke, California Surgeon General, shares her views as a leading advocate in pushing the state to expand screenings for abuse and extreme stress in children. Burke Harris said that when children are exposed to high levels of stress or abuse often enough, hormones are triggered that can have lasting effects on brain development and the immune system. Too often mental trauma is considered unrelated to medical care, she said, despite studies showing a clear link to physical ailments. The full article can be viewed [here](#).

## **SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR**

- **Behavioral Wellness Commission:** The Behavioral Wellness Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Video conferencing is available at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic large conference room and the Santa Maria Clinic Conference Room. Questions: Karen Campos, [kcampos@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kcampos@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **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; Lompoc Conference Room, ACT, upstairs, 401 E. Cypress and Large conference room, 500 West Foster Road, Santa Maria. Questions: Dalila Brown, [dbrown@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dbrown@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meetings occur every other month on the third Tuesday at 301 N. R Street. Questions: Anthony Hollenback, [ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership:** meets every 3rd Monday of the month from 10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Veronica Heinzelmann, [vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Santa Barbara Children's Regional Partnership:** 3th Thursday of the month from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Veronica Heinzelmann, [vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).
- **Santa Maria Children's Regional Partnership Meeting** is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 10 am in the large meeting room at the Foster Road Clinic. Questions: Shana Burns at [sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sburns@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: Elodie Patarias, [epatari@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:epatari@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or Geoff Bernard, [gbernard@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:gbernard@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](mailto:lazeitz@sbcbswell.org)
- **The Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT)** meets the second Friday of each month, 9:30-11:00 am, Locations: Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic Large Conference Room 119, Santa Maria Annex and Lompoc B St. Contact Maria Arteaga at 805-681-5208 or [marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or Anthony Hollenback at 805-737-6610 or [ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **The Peer Action Team** meets the second Thursday of the Month from 2 – 4:00 pm. Locations: Behavioral Wellness Santa Barbara Conference Room 261, Lompoc Children’s New Port Room the Santa Maria Annex Room via videoconference. Contact Maria Arteaga at 805-681-5208 or [marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **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 John Winckler, [jwinckler@sbcbswell.org](mailto:jwinckler@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 Shana Burns at [sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Forensic Action Team** will be meeting every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 2:00 – 3:30. The meeting will be held at the Behavioral Wellness Children’s Mental Health Services building, room 119, located at 429 N. San Antonio Rd in Santa Barbara. Anyone wishing to join by videoconference or have questions may contact John Lewis at [jolewis@sbcbswell.org](mailto:jolewis@sbcbswell.org)