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# Director's Report October 19, 2016



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

## DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

**PHF Manager Hired:** Gerardo Puga, MFT, has been selected through a competitive recruitment process to serve as the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Manager, a new position that consolidates PHF administrative responsibilities. Mr. Puga, who is bilingual, will begin on October 17. Most recently he has worked as the Director of Social Services at Kaweah Delta, a 581-bed healthcare organization in Visalia. He will assume most administrative duties at the PHF, including contract oversight, regulatory compliance and many aspects of day-to-day management of the facility. The creation of the PHF Manager position and hiring of Gerardo will greatly enhance PHF operations. Please join us in welcoming Gerardo to the Behavioral Wellness team.

**MAT Training Scheduled for October 20:** Behavioral Wellness is beginning to implement medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to address the needs of clients with concurrent mental health and substance use disorders. Medications are used to ameliorate impacts of drug abuse and allow clients to engage in the recovery process. On October 20, 2016, Judith Martin, MD, Medical Director for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Substance Use Services, will share her expertise implementing MAT systems of care in Santa Barbara. She will present MAT to psychosocial providers in the morning from 9:30 – 11:30 and to psychiatrists from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the Wisteria Conference Room of the Environmental Services Department, 260 N. San Antonio Rd., Santa Barbara. For more information, contact Maria Xique, [mxique@co.santa-barbara.c.us](mailto:mxique@co.santa-barbara.c.us) or call 681-5440.

**Residences at Depot Street to offer Thirty-Five Affordable Apartments:** Using Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding allocated for housing, a Behavioral Wellness collaboration with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara has supported development of the Residences at Depot Street in Santa Maria. Of the 80 affordable units, approximately 35 will be dedicated to Behavioral Wellness clients. Three are studio apartments, 19 are one-bedroom apartments, 10 consist of two-bedrooms and three are three-bedroom apartments. The Residences at Depot Street, which is expected to accept clients during the next year, will bring the total of MHSA-supported apartments countywide to 82 units. The average cost of creating an MHSA-funded apartment is \$55,828.

**Employee Stars Saluted:** The Department of Behavioral Wellness Employee Engagement and Appreciation Committee has launched a "Salute to a Star" employee recognition program. Every quarter employees from each region are selected by their peers to be honored for outstanding achievement. In October, recipients were Jennifer Hidrobo, LCSW, who works at the PHF, formerly with the Santa Barbara

transition-age youth (TAY) program; Marcos Cline, LPT, Psychiatric Technician with the Lompoc Adult team and Lourdes Syslo, Peer Recovery Assistant, who serves on the Santa Maria Triage team. Congratulations Jennifer, Marcos and Lourdes!

**Children's System of Care (CSOC) Action Team Update:** Between twenty and thirty people representing all parts of the system participate in monthly CSOC Action Team meetings. New members, including a representative from Tri-Counties Regional Center, have been added. The Bridges to Resilience Conference was conceived and created by members of the CSOC-Action Team. More than 250 individuals attended first event held on October 12, 2016. The Team also discusses the legislatively mandated Children's Care Reform (CCR) on a monthly basis in preparation for its rollout on January 1, 2017. By reforming the group home system, CCR will change how California cares for its most vulnerable children who have been removed from their homes.

**Pilot Program Seeks Reduced Hospitalizations:** The Crisis Action Team has resumed meeting after a several month hiatus during which new co-chairs were identified. A vigorous effort is underway to broaden the participation, to review the degree to which past goals have been met and to discuss any new objectives to be set as key goals for the coming year. A systemwide strategy to develop interventions that can break the cycle of repeated hospitalizations for about a dozen high users of crisis services is being piloted in the Santa Barbara region.

**CCDAT Sets 2016-2017 Goals:** The Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT) goals for fiscal year 2016-2017 focus on outreach and engagement activities, training and policy updates and diversifying the department's workforce through targeted recruitment and retention strategies. Beginning in October 2016, Yaneris Muñiz and Enrique Bautista will launch an outreach and engagement campaign to reach segments of the community traditionally underserved and lacking access to resources. Collaboration with La Casa de La Raza, Pacific Pride Foundation and the United Domestic Worker's (UDW) resulted in a "Top 10" list of priority targets for outreach and engagement. The first outreach presentation is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> for the Santa Maria Head Start program and will provide a general overview on depression, anxiety and available mental health resources.

**New Business Specialist on Board:** Evan Kudler joined the Behavioral Wellness Office of Quality Strategy Management (OQSM) team on Monday, October 10, as a part-time, extra help Departmental Business Specialist. Evan provides support to the department policy and procedure development process, as well as support for the departmental ethnic services and diversity management responsibilities. He will report to Yaneris Muñiz, Policy and Project Development Coordinator and Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager.

Evan joins the department with recent experience as the Business Systems Analyst Intern and Project Manager for Deckers Corporation. In this role he gained experience in analyzing reports, project management and streamlining processes throughout the company. Prior to his work with Deckers, he served as the forecasting intern for a California Economic Forecast, responsible for gathering data and conducting research on real estate development throughout Southern California. Evan will graduate from UCSB in June of 2017 with a BA in Economics.

## STATEWIDE NEWS

**Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowships available:** The application window for the 2017-2018 cohort of the Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship has opened. The Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship is remarkable program unlike any other, providing a rich, interdisciplinary learning experience designed to equip professionals with the latest thinking and research on models of care and to support a deep and broad understanding of relationship-based therapies. Participants have the opportunity to hear from, and interact with, some of the most recognized experts in the field of infant mental health and to engage in a practice-based mentoring model. The program's graduates are among a small group of providers in the United States formally trained in this important field. In partnership with UC Davis Extension and the UC Davis MIND Institute, the program confers 23 units of academic credit, as well as fulfills state requirements for certification as an Infant Mental Health Specialist. Applications will be processed and considered on an ongoing basis. Application review time and notification is typically two-three weeks, and applicants will be notified by a Letter of Acceptance. There is no cutoff or deadline for applications, but the earlier an application is received, the greater the likelihood of admission. More information is available at: [www.extension.ucdavis.edu/napa](http://www.extension.ucdavis.edu/napa).

## NATIONAL NEWS

**President Proclaims October as National Youth Substance Use and Substance Use Disorder Prevention Month:** On October 3<sup>rd</sup> President Obama proclaimed October 2016 as [National Youth Substance Use and Substance Use Disorder Prevention Month](#). "I call upon all Americans to engage in appropriate programs and activities to promote comprehensive prevention efforts to reduce youth substance use and substance use disorders within their communities." The full proclamation is [here](#).

## SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR

- **The Systems Change Steering Committee** will meet on November 17, 1:30 – 4:00 pm, Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 106 E Anapamu St. Video Conferencing available at the Santa Maria Board of Supervisors meeting room.
- **Change Agent Meeting:** October 26, 9 am – 11 am, Via videoconference at the following locations: 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. Change agents meet the fourth Wednesday of every month 9 – 11 am except during quarterly in-person meetings, which are 9 am – 12 noon. Questions: Nathan Post, [npost@sbcswell.org](mailto:npost@sbcswell.org).
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** The next meeting is November 15, 3:30-4:30, 301 N. R Street and every other month on the third Tuesday thereafter. If you are interested in participating please contact Jeanie Sleight [Jeanie.Sleight@sbcphd.org](mailto:Jeanie.Sleight@sbcphd.org) or Sandy Fahey [sfahey@sbcswell.org](mailto:sfahey@sbcswell.org). The next meeting is November 15, 3:30-4:30, 301 N. R Street and every other month on the third Tuesday thereafter.

- **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](mailto: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](mailto:ampyper@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: Amanda Pyper, [ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ampyper@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, [ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ampyper@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 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](mailto:ymuniz@sbcbswell.org).
- **The Peer Action Team** meets the third Thursday of the Month from 2 – 4:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Express, Solvang, 1455 Mission Drive. Contact Tina Wooton, [twooton@sbcbswell.org](mailto:twooton@sbcbswell.org).
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:avicuna@sbcbswell.org).