
Director's Report

May 16, 2018



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DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

Construction on Santa Maria Crisis Residential Treatment Facility Planned for June: In 2016 the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) approved a grant allocation for the County in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00 for a crisis residential program. The County plans to locate the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) in north county. Grant funds cover the costs associated with construction or renovation, furnishings, equipment, information technology and associated start-up costs. Since the grant award, a county-owned building at 116 Agnes Street was identified for the program site, and the capacity has been increased from six to 10 beds. The County General Services Department anticipates that construction will start in June.

The CRT will serve adults who cope with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. The CRT will offer a non-institutional, home-like setting for individuals experiencing mental health issues to receive up to 30 days of respite, peer support, and linkage to ongoing mental health services and resources. In this environment, supportive crisis intervention occurs to support individuals' efforts towards recovery. A warm, comforting, home-like setting is designed to reinforce the stabilization and recovery process. The CRT Program will operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. It is expected to provide services to accommodate approximately 150 consumers annually.

Behavioral Wellness Receives Funding to Expand Children's Crisis Services: The Behavioral Wellness Department was awarded funding through a Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for crisis triage services for children, 21 and under. The new funding will support placement a triage clinician at each of the three regional Hospital Emergency Departments (Eds) -- Cottage, Lompoc Valley, and Marian. Children's crisis triage clinicians will provide ongoing assessment and treatment, as well as collaboration with other health providers. As additional funding is awarded, we will add parent partners to provide family support. The services are intended to help rescind many 5585 applications and allow youth to return home without the need for psychiatric hospitalization. For youth requiring hospitalization, the triage clinician will coordinate bed finding, shortening the youth's time in the local EDs.

Children's crisis triage team members will also be available to respond in the community to serve children have been identified as at risk for a mental health crisis but who do not meet the level of acuity necessary for intervention by the SAFTY mobile crisis team. We anticipate that this exciting new program will begin in mid-summer.

Mental Health Month Celebrated: On May 1, the Behavioral Wellness Department along with the Behavioral Wellness Commission presented a resolution before the Board of Supervisors that calls upon all citizens to “fight stigma associated with mental illness and reaffirm the commitment to supporting the mental health of all people in Santa Barbara County.” Recognition was given to the Behavioral Wellness Division Chief Ana Vicuna and her Managers for their dedication and work on behalf of the Department including: John Winckler, John Lewis, Veronica Heinzelmann, Shana Burns and Tammy Summers. Kudos as well to Santa Maria Behavioral Wellness staff for participating in a Mental Health Awareness Walk/Run on May 12. Ten staff joined the 5K event.

Advisory Group Members Sought for Implicit Bias Training: The Department of Behavioral Wellness is partnering with Jill Sharkey, Ph.D., and her team at UC Santa Barbara to address disparities in admission, diagnosis and treatment outcomes for youth of color in the mental health system. This partnership is an extension of the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Project, a grant-funded countywide initiative spearheaded by the Probation Department that includes Department of Social Services, school districts and other community partners.

Following Dr. Sharkey’s assessment of the mental health system, key deliverables have been identified to address disparities, including the development of an advanced implicit bias training focused on clinical assessment and diagnosis practices. Individuals are invited to join an advisory group that will assist in developing this innovative training. Our hope is that the advisory group will also serve as the first cohort of trainers.

- *First meeting:* A kickoff meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of days. We anticipate the first meeting occurring either the week of May 21-25 or June 4-8.
- *Time commitment:* The advisory group will meet 2-3 times in the first two months, then monthly thereafter. There will also be ongoing email communications that may require your response and input.
- *Who we're looking for:* We invite those who have clinical experience working with children or families of color, especially those with experience in senior or supervising clinical roles. It is recommended that those involved understand implicit bias.

If you are interested or would like more information, please respond to this email or contact the Behavioral Wellness Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager, Yaneris Muñiz, at ymuniz@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Mandatory Online Trainings Must be Completed by June 30: Behavioral Wellness Department staff members have fewer than 60 days left to complete mandatory online trainings (Code of Conduct, Cultural Diversity, and Mental Health Consumer Culture). These trainings have been assigned to the employee’s [Relias account](#) and are due on June 30th, 2018. All employees are required to complete these trainings and are held responsible for completing them on time! Please contact Kathleen Chiarappa at (805) 681-5369 or email BwellTrainingGroup@co.santa-barbara.ca.us with any questions.

Staff members of many community-based organizations have similar requirements in their contract. Relias is also now accessible to CBOs and this system can run reports on staff compliance with training requirements.

STATEWIDE NEWS

Governor Proposes Millions in New Mental Healthcare and Homeless Funding: In the May 2018 State Budget Revision for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, Governor Brown has proposed \$254 million plus interest to repay counties for expenditures related to a repealed state mandate, AB 3632, according to the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA). Reimbursed expenditures for mental health services for children with serious emotional disturbances in special education were incurred between 2004 and 2011. Counties are expected to use the funds for prevention and early intervention mental health services for youth.

The May Budget Revision also includes \$358.8 million for both one-time and ongoing funding to address the rising homeless population. These funds are designed to bridge the gap until other new revenues, including the No Place Like Home bond, go into effect. The May Revision also proposes placing No Place Like Home on the November 2018 ballot, rather than waiting for the court process to come to resolution.

The CBHDA also notes that the May Budget Revision proposes:

- providing one-time funding of \$50 million for the Department of Health Care Services to support county outreach, intervention and treatment for homeless individuals with mental health issues.
- elevating the Homeless Coordinating and Financial Council to Agency level. It is also proposed that the Council administer \$250 million in Emergency Homeless Aid Block Grants. Grants may be used for emergency housing vouchers, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter construction and temporary shelters.
- providing an increase of \$24 million for the CalWORKS Housing Support Program. By 2019-20, this assistance will reach \$95 million a year. The CalWORKS Homelessness Assistance is proposed to be increased by \$8 million to raise the payment from \$65 per day to \$85 per day to provide up to 16 days of temporary shelter.
- funding \$100 million for county diversion programs to reduce the number of individuals found incompetent to stand trial (IST) on felony charges. These funds target 15 counties with the highest volume of IST referrals to DSH. In addition, the May Revision maintains the \$5 million in Mental Health Services Act funding over two years for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to assist counties with developing Innovation plans that address the IST population.
- including a state general fund contribution for specific Organized Delivery System (ODS) waiver services (intensive outpatient and non-perinatal residential). The revised estimate of \$148.31 million reflects updated timelines for county implementation of the DMC-ODS waiver, updated county-specific interim rates, and the addition of a buprenorphine-naloxone combination drug that will be offered under the ODS.

For the latest information about how county behavioral health programs are impacted by state budget developments, visit [this page](#) maintained by the California Behavioral Health Directors Association.

SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR

- **Behavioral Wellness Commission:** The Behavioral Wellness Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Video conferencing is available at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic large conference room and the Santa Maria Clinic Conference Room. Questions: Lucero Garcia, lgarcia@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: Nathan Post, npost@sbcbswell.org.
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meetings occur at 3:30 – 4:30 pm, 301 N. R Street. For the next date, please contact Nicole Becker, nbecker@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.
- **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.
- **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: Arlene Altobelli, <mailto:aaltobe@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 or Geoff Bernard, 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.
- **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, Lompoc B St. Adult Clinic Conference Room, and Santa Maria Annex via videoconference. Contact Yaneris Muñiz, ymuniz@sbcbswell.org.
- **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 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 John Winckler, 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 Ana Vicuña, avicuna@sbcbswell.org
- **The Forensic Action Team** will meet on May 23 from 3:15 – 4:45 pm in Room 261, Santa Barbara. Participation is also available through video conference in Lompoc B St Conference Room and the Santa Maria Annex. For questions, please contact Celeste Andersen, candersen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.