

# Director's Report

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## DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

**HOPE 805 Remains Active in our Community Recovery:** In the aftermath of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, HOPE 805 remains active within our community. Behavioral Wellness was awarded FEMA funding for the operation of HOPE 805 and contracts with the Mental Wellness Center for the team. Through a strong partnership between Behavioral Wellness and the Mental Wellness Center, HOPE 805 has been awarded additional funding to allow services to continue through the Spring of 2019.

The recent Holiday Fire brought a new round of evacuations to Southern Santa Barbara County, causing stress and disruption in people's lives and activating the efforts of numerous collaborative partners who support residents who have been impacted in times of disaster. HOPE 805 was actively involved in the community response for the Holiday Fire. The team aided in support at the Red Cross Evacuation Center, was present on scene when final evacuation orders were lifted and residents were able to visit the site of damaged or destroyed homes for the first time, and the team provided key staffing and support at the Holiday Fire Local Assistance Center established at the Goleta School District Offices. In addition, the HOPE 805 team continues to provide ongoing support for those impacted from Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow.

Research shows that communities impacted by disaster follow a common pattern of recovery that can take up to three to five years, or possibly less for individuals depending on each person's natural resilience. People directly and indirectly impacted by the disaster may experience cognitive, emotional, social, and physiological reactions including but not limited to anxiety, sadness, grief, irritability and anger. Challenges may be noticed in sleep, concentration, work or in relationships. HOPE 805 continues to be available to support people in their recovery process and in dealing with the impact and stresses caused by disasters. HOPE 805 is part of the Community Wellness Team, led by Behavioral Wellness, which remains an active collaboration of over 13 local agencies working together to support the wellness of our community in response to the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. Those in need of disaster response support may contact the HOPE 805 team by calling (805) 845-7887 or (805) 845-2973.

**Shereen Khatapoush recognized as Santa Barbara County Employee of the Month:** On August 14, 2018, Shereen Khatapoush was recognized as the Santa Barbara County Employee of the Month. She is recognized for embracing the role of designing, analyzing and presenting complex behavioral health

information as the Research and Program Evaluation Supervisor, and completing a variety of detailed and collaborative tasks while showing initiative and dedication. Shereen enthusiastically contributed in the development of meaningful and objective program outcome measures to quantify the success of Behavioral Wellness clients served by our contracted providers and has been able to turn complex system numbers into understandable data stories that have been used in the Behavioral Wellness annual and semi-annual reports as well as Process Improvement Projects required by the State. Shereen has a positive attitude and is repeatedly willing to assist and support the Department of Behavioral Wellness in becoming an organization that strives for and demonstrates continuous quality improvement. She is recognized for her professional expertise as a valuable resource, and for her regular contributions and suggestions to improve the workplace, serving as a model for the entire department. We congratulate Shereen in this honor!

**Department of Behavioral Wellness FY 16-18 Strategic Plan:** Behavioral Wellness is pleased to share the closing of the *2016-2018 Strategic Plan: Prioritization of Department Objectives*. This guiding document was developed based on a synthesis of 20 documents created between 1998 and 2015, many of which were subject to a variety of stakeholder processes. The department's Strategic Plan has guided the last two years of departmental priorities and objectives. Behavioral Wellness is proud to conclude the FY 2016-2018 having completed the prioritized accomplishments for this period. The department is currently in the process of developing the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The *2016-2018 Strategic Plan: Prioritization of Department Objectives* can be viewed [here](#).

### **Santa Maria Regional Partnership Meetings and Children System of Care (CSOC) Updates:**

#### **Santa Maria Regional Partnership Meetings**

The Santa Maria region has been focused on building partnerships with local law enforcement to address inter-agency collaboration efforts at the intersection of mental health and criminal justice involvement. Another area of partnership development has involved honing in on community program/resource sharing through provider presentations from partners such as, ANKA, United Way, Good Samaritan, Santa Maria Police Department Community Service Unit, Sheriff's Department, Family Service Agency, Community Health Centers (CHC), and more.

### **Santa Barbara Regional Updates:**

#### **Adult Regional Partnership Update**

The Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership meeting occurs every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 10 am to 11 am at the SB Children's Clinic. This gathering gathers the departmental staff, stakeholders, Community Based Organizational providers, and other community members on a monthly basis in Santa Barbara but also occurs in the regions of Lompoc and Santa Maria and provides updates on programs, facilitates information sharing, identifies and trouble-shoots obstacles to accessing care, builds and supports interagency relationships, and promotes increased collaboration. The Santa Barbara Regional Partnership meeting invites guest speakers to share resources through providing brief presentations on their respective services. Last month's speakers included Emily Allen, Director of the Homeless and

Veteran's Impact Initiatives speaking on the Coordinated Entry Program and Tammy Summers, Department of Behavioral Wellness Manager of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Assertive Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs.

### Coordinated Entry Program

The Coordinated Entry Program is a resource for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness who can get help finding housing. There are different entry points with walk in hours available in Santa Barbara at PATH, Salvation Army-Hospitality House and for Veterans at the Veteran's Memorial Building. These entry points are resource centers where individuals and families experiencing homelessness can get help finding housing and other needed resources. Regional Entry Points have limited walk-in hours available. Walk-in appointments are available on a first come, first serve basis. The process for accessing these services begin with accessing entry points, diversion and unification for those that could potentially be quickly re-stabilized in housing, and assessment of severity of housing need. Additional information on the Coordinated Entry Program can be found [here](#).

### Assisted Outpatient Treatment

The Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program provides court ordered outpatient treatment for adults living with a serious mental illness who are experiencing repeated crisis events and are not engaging in treatment on a voluntary basis. Among the many positive outcomes of the AOT program are that of engagement. Measured engagement data reflects outcomes showing that two-fifths of people referred to AOT (42%) have accepted voluntary treatment and have not needed court interventions. More information can be found on the AOT program [here](#).

### Children's Regional Partnership Update

The Santa Barbara Children Regional Partnership meeting occurs every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2 pm to 3 pm at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic. Highlights from last month's meeting included speaker Doug Flaker, Program Development Director for the American Indian Health & Services. Mr. Flaker explained the Circles of Care program, funded by a SAMHSA grant, to address the need for the Native American community to access needed mental health services. The American Indian Health & Services program expressed their desire to partner with agencies to facilitate collaboration and eliminate duplication of services. The time spent with Doug Flaker was filled with dialogue, questions and learning for the Children's team in Santa Barbara.

**One-Time Funding for Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment:** Earlier this month, a brainstorming session took place to explore ideas for a funding opportunity through Senate Bill 840 for outreach and treatment for our community homeless population with mental illness. An initial letter of intent, summarizing intended use of funds up to \$800,000, is due to the State on September 25. Senate Bill 840 states that funding may be used for intensive outreach, treatment and related services for homeless persons with mental illness. Locally generated ideas for use include a mobile outreach vehicle, additional vehicles to aid in transporting individuals to treatment, additional homeless outreach staff and portable units ("PODS") for use in providing showers and medical assistance for homeless individuals.

California recognizes the growing need to allocate significant investments in mental health services and homelessness. Senate Bill (SB) 840 allows for a funding opportunity to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide counties with one-time funding for local activities involving individuals with serious mental illness and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. All counties are eligible to receive this funding, including counties with Whole Person Care pilots. This includes counties with populations with recent involvement in the criminal justice system or release from incarceration. Counties are encouraged to match these funds with local mental health funding as well as federal matching funds, as appropriate.

Stay tuned for updates on this application process in the fall.

**Children’s System of Care (CSOC) Action Team:** The CSOC committee is currently in the process of identifying a subcommittee to create a Level of Care (LOC) community-based provider guide for the children’s system of care. This initiative aims to identify a unified language for determining the appropriate LOC for each youth and their family by expanding provider’s knowledge base of the services and resources being offered in each region to improve overall access to care.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bridges to Resilience Conference has been scheduled for Thursday, October 11th @ 8-5 pm at the Buellton Marriott. See link for more details, click [here](#).

The CSOC committee is also in the process of discussing its goals, objectives and strategies for this coming year with the focus on expanding upon the trauma-informed approaches within each organization, system-wide.

## NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

**Homelessness Funding for Counties:** The Budget package approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor includes more than \$700 million in funding to assist local governments in addressing homelessness. The centerpiece of the homelessness package is \$500 million for the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), which provides funding to local governments for a spectrum of housing options, from short-term shelters to new affordable housing units to permanent supportive housing units for those living with severe mental illness.

Including the one-time Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program funding which comes directly to Santa Barbara County (described earlier in this report) there are nine major programs funded in the 2018-19 Budget Act. The nine programs are listed below:

- Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) - \$500 million
- No Place Like Home Act of 2018 – Up to \$2 billion upon approval by voters

- Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program – \$50 million
- California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) – Up to \$57.5 million
- Housing for a Healthy California – Up to \$57.5 million
- Home Safe Program – \$15 million over three years
- CalWORKs Housing Support Program – \$24.2 million increase in 2018-19, \$48.4 million increase in 2019-20 for a total annual amount of \$95 million
- CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program – \$8.1 million increase in 2018-19, \$15.3 million increase in 2019-20
- Homeless Youth and Exploitation Program (HX) – \$1 million increase to bring total funding up to \$2.077 million

**National Wellness Week:** National Wellness Week is an annual health observance dedicated to help promote prevention and wellness for people with mental and/or substance use disorders.

Mark your calendars! SAMHSA's next National Wellness Week (NWW) will be from **September 16-22, 2018**. Every year when this week is observed, communities and organizations across the country engage in activities from hosting 5K walks/runs to coordinating health fairs, organizing conferences, and dialoguing on social media to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health. More can be learned about National Wellness Week from SAMHSA [here](#).

**No Place Like Home Act of 2018:** The No Place Like Home Act of 2018 will appear on the November 6, 2018 statewide ballot asking the voters to affirm the implementation of the No Place Like Home Program (NPLH). The measure would authorize up to \$1.8 billion in bond funding and the redirection of up to \$140 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding annually, to provide grants to counties for permanent supportive housing projects for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and living with a serious mental illness.

For a detailed explanation of the NPLH program, including the competitive and noncompetitive grant funding framework and proscribed uses of funding, please visit the [CSAC NPLH webpage](#).

## **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: Lucero Garcia, [lugarcia@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:lugarcia@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](mailto:npost@sbcbswell.org).

- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meetings occur every other month on the third Tuesday. The next meeting is November 21, 3:30-4:30 at 301 N. R Street. Questions: Nicole Becker, [nbecker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto: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](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: Arlene Altobelli, [aaltobe@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](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](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, Lompoc B St.
- **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](mailto: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](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 Ana Vicuña, [avicuna@sbcbswell.org](mailto:avicuna@sbcbswell.org)

- **The Forensic Action Team** will be meeting every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 3:15 – 4:45. The meeting is available through video conference in SB Room 261, Lompoc B St Conf Room and the SM Annex. For questions, please contact Celeste Andersen, [candersen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:candersen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)