



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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December 29, 2017

TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW, Director
Behavioral Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 2018

1. ACTION ITEM(S): none

2. LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO UPDATES / SPECIAL EVENTS

2.1 ESU Ribbon Cutting

On December 12th, BHS celebrated the construction of the new Emergency Screening Unit (ESU) in Hillcrest. This facility provides state-of-the-art emergency screening for children and adolescents, and triples the number of available publicly managed crisis beds.

The ESU provides crisis stabilization for children and youth undergoing a psychiatric emergency and is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The program provides for the safe holding of children and youth up to age 18 years old for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes. This period is extremely important for avoiding hospitalization, maintaining children in the least restrictive environment, and reducing pressure on emergency rooms and law enforcement.

Funding to construct this facility came from an *Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act* grant and *Mental Health Services Act Capital Facilities* funds. These services were previously located in Chula Vista. Services began in late December and are provided by New Alternatives Inc. to support the County's *Live Well San Diego* vision.

2.2 HHSA Wins CAPE Award

The County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency was recognized this month for excellence in innovation, continuous improvement, and leadership, receiving a California Awards for Performance Excellence (CAPE) Silver Level award. The CAPE Award is given out by the California Council for Excellence and is based on the Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence. Applicants go through a rigorous evaluation process. The evaluation typically takes more than three months and includes a week-long site visit. The process covers the applicants' performance in seven areas defined by the Baldrige Framework: leadership; strategy; customers; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce; operations; and results.

2.2 Upcoming Events

All Provider Luncheon

The All Provider Luncheon will take place Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Anchors Catering in San Diego. The event provides an opportunity for behavioral health service providers to network and discuss priorities for the coming year while enjoying a great meal. For more information or to register, please contact Delrena Swaggerty with Mental Health Contractors Association.

3. UPDATE FROM THE CLINICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (CDO)

3.1 Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System

The County is seeking to opt-in to the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) to build a robust continuum of care for beneficiaries with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The critical elements of DMC-ODS include:

- Providing a continuum of care modeled after the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for SUD treatment services;
- Increasing local control and accountability with greater administrative oversight;
- Creating utilization controls to improve care and efficient use of resources;
- Increasing program oversight and integrity;
- Providing more intensive services for the criminal justice population which are harder to treat;
- Requiring evidence-based practices in substance abuse treatment; and
- Increasing coordination with other systems of care including physical and mental health.

On May 4, 2017, BHAB voted to support the County's submission of the DMC-ODS Implementation Plan (IP) to the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The County's IP was submitted to DHCS on May 26, 2017, and was approved on October 5, 2017. BHS submitted a DMC-ODS Fiscal Plan to DHCS, and anticipates its approval. BHS plans to request authority from the Board of Supervisors in February 2018 to enter into agreement with DHCS and begin services by July 1, 2018.

3.2 Long Term Care (LTC) Expansion

The Clinical Director's Office has begun to implement a Three-Year LTC Expansion Plan with a focus on the development and expansion of LTC resources for our Behavioral Health System of Care. Consistent with the County's *Live Well San Diego* vision, this expansion helps BHS build a better service delivery system. By providing an expanded array of LTC and other residential treatment modalities, BHS can increase implementation of clinical best practices, ensure that people are treated at the least restrictive level of care, and lower costs to the system by providing the best value to the County.

Implementation of the Three-Year LTC Expansion Plan includes:

- Adding 64 Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) beds to the Crestwood San Diego Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, resulting in total of 106 beds at this site;
- Adding seven beds to Changing Options, a Transitional Residential program offering step-down placement from and an alternative to IMD and State Hospital beds, resulting in a total of 14 beds;
- Issuing a Request for Proposal for additional transitional residential beds and biopsychosocial rehabilitative services to seriously mentally ill adults with co-occurring disorders who have Medi-Cal coverage (in process);

- Issuing a Request for Information for Residential Care for Elderly Licensed Board and Care services (in process); and
- Issuing a Request for Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities with Special Treatment Program services (in process).

3.3 **Workforce, Education and Training Update**

To further support the psychiatric nurses at the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital, a training program focused on psychological disorders was implemented July 10, 2017, and will be offered through June 2018. Each training cohort is provided these trainings over a seven-week period, addressing up to two topics per class, including diagnostic criteria, formal treatment modalities, nursing staff intervention and practice vignettes. The original goal of this program was to train up to 100 nursing staff by providing four separate training cohorts. Since July 2017, this goal has been surpassed and over 120 nurses have completed the trainings. Based on the positive feedback received by the staff, the trainings series has since been expanded to include additional areas of focus to meet the needs of the nursing staff.

Respectfully submitted,



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AA:bp

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