



# County of San Diego

**ERIC C. MCDONALD, MD, MPH, FACEP**  
INTERIM AGENCY DIRECTOR

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MAIL STOP P-531  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-3806  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

**LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D.**  
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

October 26, 2023

TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Luke Bergmann, Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Health Services

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) DIRECTOR'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2023**

### **EDGEMOOR DISTINCT PART SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (EDGEMOOR) UPDATES**

#### **Status Updates/Accomplishments/Announcements**

Edgemoor remains an overall five-star facility on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Care Compare site for Nursing Homes. Achieving five out of five stars in all four rating categories (Overall Quality, Health Inspection, Quality Measures, Staffing, and RN Staffing).

In September, Edgemoor was named one of Newsweek's Best Nursing Homes for 2024, ranking number three in California. In the past, Edgemoor was ranked number two in 2023, number three in 2022, and number one in both 2021 and 2020.

The California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) Facility Superstar Award recognizes employees of CAHF member facilities who have 10 or more years of service and have dedicated their lives to long-term care. The top 20 nominees are selected by CAHF's Board of Directors to receive the award and attend the awards ceremony in November. This year, Edgemoor Certified Nursing Assistant, Lourdes Richardson, was selected to receive the award. Lourdes is being honored for her 19 years of service to long-term care at Edgemoor.

Edgemoor staff continue to participate in and support the County of San Diego's (County) Diversity and Inclusion initiative, along with other County and community events. Recent examples of events included Pride Month, Philippine Independence Day, Nurse's and Skilled Nursing Care Week, the County of San Diego's Amazing Race, Live Well 5k, and the Huntington's Disease Society walk.

To learn more about Edgemoor visit the following link: <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/details/nursing-home/055008?id=c5c0a6e0-691f-46d9-930d-d85f95a29095&city=San%20Diego&state=CA&zipcode=>

#### **COVID-19 Update**

The weekly requirements to report metrics related to vaccinations, positive cases, and other COVID-19 related metrics to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) portal remain in place. Facility staff and contractors continue to mask when providing patient care or during patient interactions of less than six feet for greater than 15 minutes. Visitors are not required to mask although it is strongly encouraged. Edgemoor continues to follow all other requirements of various local, state, and federal health agencies.

### **Facility Improvements**

The planning and development of a 12-bed acute psychiatric facility into the existing floor plan of Edgemoor remains on-going. Licensure of this new acute unit will provide continuity of care and access for patients from the skilled nursing facility for stabilization. Edgemoor will be licensed as a distinct part skilled nursing facility of the new unit and will no longer be licensed under the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital's license. Licensure will require approval by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Health Care Access and Information.

A new nurse call system is currently being installed and should be completed by May 2024. During the transition, a temporary wireless call system will be installed to ensure continuity of operations.

The dish room reconfiguration and dishwasher replacement project has begun. A temporary dishwashing trailer was delivered on September 25, 2023. Once the trailer is fully operational and new workflow processes are in place, construction can begin. Project completion is estimated during the third quarter of fiscal year 2023/24.

The roof replacement project is ongoing, and completion is estimated by the end of November 2023.

Other upcoming facility projects include installation of nine electric vehicle charging stations; upgraded security cameras; relocation of the security guard desk to the entryway of the lobby; dietary ceiling tile replacement; cooling systems maintenance; and parking lot resurfacing.

### **Financial**

The public health emergency for the COVID-19 outbreak expired on May 11, 2023. Thus, effective May 12, 2023, the Medi-Cal COVID-19 increased reimbursement ceased, and reimbursement rates were reverted to the rate year 2022-23 annual per diem rates. For Edgemoor, this meant a drop in reimbursement from \$781.40 per patient day to \$724.44 per patient day. However, this will likely be somewhat offset by the annual Medi-Cal increase which is usually announced at the beginning of the year and retroactive to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.

The current private pay rate of \$908.00 per patient day was effective July 1, 2023, although Edgemoor generally has very few, if any, private pay residents.

Effective January 1, 2024, the number of available Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) in San Diego County is decreasing from six to four. Available plans will be Blue Shield of CA Promise Health Plan, Community Health Group (CHG) Partnership Plan, Molina Healthcare of CA, and Kaiser Permanente. This will affect approximately 28 Edgemoor residents who will be reassigned or enrolled into one of these Medi-Cal MCPs.

### **Resident Occupancy**

Occupancy remains with almost all the 160 available beds filled (32 beds are offline due to upcoming construction). The average occupancy for this fiscal year is 97% of available beds.

### **Recruitment, Performance Evaluations and Human Resources Update**

Edgemoor continues to focus on filling new and open positions. Edgemoor has a total of 371 County positions, counting six new positions which include: one (1) Assistant Director of Nursing; two (2) Supervising Nurses; one (1) Inservice Educator; and two (2) Quality Assurance Specialists.

Service awards were recently provided to 13 employees with five years of service, four employees with 10 years of service, two employees with 15 years of service, two employees with 20 years of service, one employee with 25 years of service, and one employee with 30 years of service, highlighting the commitment of our staff to our patients and public service.

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL (SDCPH) UPDATES**

### **Leadership Change | Welcoming Marjorie (Marjie) Halverson as our newest member of the clinical leadership team, and as the Recreation Therapy Supervisor for SDCPH.**

Marjie joined SDCPH in 2019 as a Recreational Therapist. In that role, she served as a direct care provider on several acute care and long-term care treatment teams, specializing in music therapy-based interventions, collaborating with other disciplines, and elevating evidence-based programming for all patients. Marjie is a Culture of Safety Coach, aiding in improving safe work practices and creating a positive work culture. She is also a member of the Risk Event Task Force where risk mitigations are driven by line staff.

Marjie holds a bachelor's degree in music education and music therapy from Wartburg College and has maintained Board Certification as a Music Therapist since 2013. Marjie completed her undergraduate degree in Waverly, Iowa, and moved to San Diego in 2012 to complete her clinical internship at the Music Therapy Center of California. Since moving to San Diego, Marjie has worked in a variety of settings, including six years as an Adjunctive Therapist at Aurora Behavioral Healthcare. When not at work, Marjie enjoys relaxing at home with her partner, their two cats, traveling, and going on outdoor adventures.

### **Mental Health Awareness**

SDCPH continues to invest in promoting a culture of safety through hosting several activities surrounding self-care, colleague comradery, laughter, and improved work health happiness. Some activities have included sessions through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on-site and Spirit of Fun events.

### **Development**

SDCPH continues to host a Leadership Council facilitated by the Hospital Administrator and Director of Nursing. The goal is to grow future leaders through enhanced communication strategies, confidence-building, and strategic growth development. The series includes team building, identifying leadership philosophies, and developing a clear vision in their leadership journey. SDCPH has also started a formalized charge nurse training to add to developing nursing leadership while working with highly acute cases in both emergency services and inpatient treatment. The nursing department has begun developing a shared governance within the hospital which is threaded to Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Nursing shared governance. SDCPH and BHS leadership gathered at the hospital for a Safety Summit which focused on identifying risk issues and developing creative strategies to mitigate the risks. It was an honor to have BHS Leadership team up with hospital leadership to work towards building safer working strategies for staff.

## **BHS SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CalAIM and Substance Use Residential Programs Update**

BHS is committed to supporting mental health and substance use contractors in successfully transitioning toward a value-based care model that is sustainable, improves client care and outcomes, and expands network capacity to improve access to care for those in need. To that end, the County will commence implementation of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative for residential substance use programs effective November 1, 2023.

CalAIM is a state initiative designed to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Californians through delivery system, program, and payment reforms across Medi-Cal. These changes include a shift from the existing cost-reimbursement methodology to a fee for service payment structure.

Following the most recent procurement for substance use residential services, the County increased contracted capacity by adding 16 withdrawal management beds and 21 substance use residential

treatment beds, bringing our current contracted capacity to 1,091 substance use residential treatment beds, with 82 of those being dedicated to withdrawal management. Future requests for proposals will seek to further increase capacity for substance use residential treatment beds, as well as withdrawal management beds within the system of care.

### **CARE Act Program**

BHS has officially rolled out the much-anticipated Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act program, with the program going live on October 1, 2023, as part of the state's phase one implementation. In collaboration with County and community partners, the CARE Act program creates a new pathway to deliver mental health and substance use services to individuals who are diagnosed with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders and are not engaged in treatment.

Families, clinicians, first responders, and others may begin the process by filing a petition with the civil court to connect people (ages 18+) to court-ordered voluntary treatment if they meet criteria and would benefit from the program.

The CARE Act team is excited to collaborate with our mental health and substance use disorder providers, as well as our judicial and housing partners to connect CARE Act program participants to identified services.

For more information on the CARE Act program, please visit BHS's webpage:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/CARE\\_act\\_program.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/CARE_act_program.html).

### **New Programs – Outpatient Services**

Three (3) Biopsychosocial Rehabilitation (BPSR) programs were established through a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) and services at these programs will include expansion of walk-in hours and mobile outreach. The target population for these programs are residents of San Diego age 18 or older who have serious mental illness (SMI), including those who may have co-occurring substance use. The three programs will serve: the Central Region focusing on Latino populations, and the East and North Central Regions focusing on Asian Pacific Islander populations. Services at the designated outpatient mental health clinics will include urgent walk-in services, Transition Age Youth (TAY) specific services for persons age 18-25, supported employment services, mobile outreach team, and older adult services. The BPSR programs expect to annually serve 2,772 unduplicated clients.

Ten new Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) contracts totaling \$160 million were awarded as a result of recent procurements. Services, which include medication-assisted treatment (MAT), case management, and ancillary services to adults and youth who have been diagnosed with an opioid-use disorder, will be available countywide with available treatment slots expanded by 150 to 4,885 total. As a result of the procurements, Recovery Residence funding and youth services were expanded to be available at all OTPs.

Respectfully submitted,



LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D., Director  
Behavioral Health Services

c: Eric C. McDonald M.D., Interim Agency Director  
Aurora Kiviat Nudd, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer  
Cecily Thornton-Stearns, Assistant Director and Chief Program Officer  
Nadia Privara Brahms, Assistant Director, Chief Strategy and Finance Officer