



# County of San Diego

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June 29, 2020

TO: The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

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

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – July 2020**

### **ACTION ITEM: GROUP ADVOCACY OPTIONS**

The County of San Diego (County) Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Bylaws, Article IV, Section D (h), states that the BHAB Chairperson can “[m]ake appointments of Members to represent areas of special interest as advocates.” Today’s action is to determine whether BHAB wishes to assign advocates to any of the County advisory boards or councils.

**It is THEREFORE staff’s recommendation that your board vote on whether to assign advocates to County advisory board and councils.**

### **LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO UPDATES/SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **BHS Programs Receive NACo Award**

In January, BHS nominated five programs for the 2019 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards Program. This award recognizes programs for innovative approaches to providing new or needed services, improving administration of existing programs or promoting intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. We are pleased to announce all five BHS programs were awarded:

- Accessible Depression and Anxiety Peripartum Treatment (ADAPT)
- Center for Child and Youth Psychiatry (CCYP)
- Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting Facilitation
- Peer Assisted Supported Services (PeerLINKS)
- Urban Beats

### Recovery Happens Annual Community Event

The annual Recovery Happens event is scheduled for September 12, 2020. Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and physical distancing requirements, this year's event will be held on a virtual platform. BHS staff and community partners on the planning committee are moving forward to create an engaging and exciting event to celebrate and bring resources to those in recovery, those who support their journey, and the community at large. More information will be provided soon.

## **UPDATE FROM THE ADULT AND OLDER ADULT (AOA) SYSTEM OF CARE**

### Program Highlights

- ***Project In-Reach Ministry Success Story***

While incarcerated, Terry (name changed) expressed interest in Project In-Reach Ministry (PIRM) to receive support for his substance abuse. Terry began the PIRM program in October 2019, and with the help of PIRM staff, was connected with a primary care provider and developed better coping skills. Terry had a long history of substance use that made it difficult for him to maintain housing or stable relationships and was connected to Victory Outreach for substance use and mental health. Although Terry initially had a positive experience with the PIRM program, he relapsed and returned to homelessness.

Terry was eventually readmitted into the treatment program, this time, fully engaged in all treatment services and volunteering in the community. Per the last contact with Terry, he has maintained sobriety.

- ***PERT Success Story***

A PERT unit was disengaging from a field call at the airport when a man approached a BHS clinician, handed her a note, and asked her to read it. The note read, "Three years ago, I was homeless and ready for suicide. PERT came, provided me a bed and ultimately saved my life. You're angels and I'm forever grateful."

### Local Government Special Needs Housing Program

BHS is currently leasing up the first two developments in the South Region that will have dedicated Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) units: Benson Place and San Ysidro Senior Village. Both will serve individuals with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness and will provide access to project-based housing vouchers through the San Diego Housing Commission.

Benson Place is a hotel/motel rehabilitation project in Otay Mesa that will contain 25 MHSA units. It will be the fourth development that was funded in part by the Local Government Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP), which provides funding to affordable housing developers to create permanent supportive housing units for MHSA-eligible clients. In June 2018, the Board of Supervisors voted to add \$10 million in additional, one-time MHSA funds to SNHP, bringing the County's total SNHP investment to \$20 million. This program has funded 128 supportive housing units (63 operational, 25 leasing up, and 40 currently in development).

San Ysidro Senior Village will be an older adult, services-only MHSA development in San Ysidro. BHS will provide supportive services to 12 MHSA-eligible tenants. No MHSA capital funding was provided for the project. The lease-ups of Benson Place and San Ysidro Senior Village will bring the total number of operational (funded and services-only) MHSA permanent supportive housing units to 364.

No Place Like Home

In January 2020, the Anita Street development to be located in Chula Vista, was the fourth development countywide to receive conditional funding and a service commitment through the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program. NPLH provides loans to affordable housing developers to create permanent supportive housing units for individuals with a serious mental illness or a serial emotional disturbance diagnosis who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of chronic homelessness.

Like SNHP, supportive services for these NPLH units will be provided by BHS. Unlike previous MHSA-funded housing programs, NPLH loans are administered locally by County of San Diego Housing and Community Development Services (HCDS). The Anita Street project joins three other developments with conditional commitments: St. Teresa of Calcutta Villa (the first NPLH development in San Diego County to break ground), Jamboree San Ysidro, and Windsor Pointe, which will be located in downtown San Diego, San Ysidro, and Carlsbad, respectively. The four developments will contain a total of 133 NPLH-funded units.

Respectfully submitted,

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