



# County of San Diego

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TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

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

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MAY 2022**

### **UPDATES FROM EDGEMOOR DISTINCT PART SKILLED NURSING FACILITY**

#### **Accomplishments**

Edgemoor remains an overall five-star facility on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Five-Star Quality Rating System; achieving five out of five stars in all four rating categories (Overall Quality, Health Inspection, Quality Measures, Staffing, and Registered Nurse Staffing).

Edgemoor has been recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one the “Best Nursing Homes” for 2022, ranking number one in the County of San Diego and third in California. Edgemoor was rated as “The Best” nursing home for 2020 and 2021.

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Arizona and California, awarded Edgemoor with Certificates of Achievement for exceeding a 90% staff and a 90% resident COVID-19 vaccine primary series rate for four consecutive weeks during the 4th quarter of 2021.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic remains at the forefront of operations at Edgemoor, as it continues to follow and implement the ever-changing guidance of various local, state, and federal health organizations.

According to state requirements, Edgemoor has continued to maintain a wing that remains designated as a COVID unit for the facility. The COVID unit was last utilized in August for three patients and again during this last spike for multiple patients.

Due to the California Public Health Orders of August 5, 2021, and January 25, 2022, all staff and contractors on-site at the facility are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters. Edgemoor held an on-site booster clinic on November 30, 2021, in partnership with CVS Pharmacy. Of the residents that qualified to be boosted, 95% of them were vaccinated that day. Additionally, 83 staff also obtained booster shots at the on-site clinic, while others opted to get boosted by outside providers.

### **Facility Improvements**

Planning and development of a 12-bed acute psychiatric facility into the existing floor plan of Edgemoor remains on-going. Construction is expected to begin in 2023. In April 2022, BHS submitted an application to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) for the Launch Ready grant in the amount of \$13 million to fund the construction of the 12-bed acute psychiatric facility at Edgemoor. The project will add a small 12-bed acute psychiatric unit to the existing Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) campus, allowing SNF residents to continue to receive the appropriate specialty psychiatric care without requiring transfer out of their residence and community, thereby increasing accessibility to this vulnerable population. The acute unit may also be able to serve other area facilities that have patients in need of stabilization thus reducing the need to send these patients to hospital emergency rooms. Establishing the acute psychiatric unit will also allow Edgemoor to maintain its Distinct Part (DP) status. Per Medi-Cal, part of the criteria for a patient to be admitted to a DP-SNF is alternate placement cannot be found at a lower level of care (e.g., a free-standing skilled nursing facility). The DP designation allows for patients to be transferred to the least restrictive setting, generally from the acute hospital to the DP-SNF, when no other facilities will accept the patient.

### **Recruitment and Hiring**

Edgemoor continues to recruit and hire for open positions within the facility. Edgemoor has a total of 361 county positions. Of these, 330 are filled. The majority of the open positions are for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Housekeepers.

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

### **Administration Change: Bidding Farewell to Izabela “Izzy” Karmach**

After more than 13 years of service to the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital, Izabela (Izzy) Karmach, hospital administrator, retired on March 24, 2022. Izzy came to the County of San Diego (County) after already establishing herself as a prominent health care leader in the community, working nearly every venue in both adolescent and adult mental health settings and at multiple leadership levels.

Izzy was deeply committed to her work and to clinical excellence, as well as to the health, safety, and welfare of clients served by the hospital, and to the multidisciplinary staff who provide these services.

### **Welcoming a New Administrator**

Angela Warneke has been appointed as the Deputy Director/hospital administrator of SDCPH effective March 25. Angela started her County service in 2016 as a licensed mental health clinician working in SDCPH's Emergency Psychiatric Unit and Crisis Recovery Unit. Prior to this appointment, Angela served as assistant medical services administrator, where she supervised SDCPH's education and quality assurance divisions and provided oversight to clinical services.

Angela has fostered collaborative partnerships with community partners, law enforcement partners, patient advocacy programs, case management services, and other stakeholders across the region. As hospital administrator, Angela will lead SDCPH's senior administrative team and department managers.

### **Regulatory Achievement**

SDCPH received their triennial accreditation through The Joint Commission (TJC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in December 2021. The accreditation allows the hospital to remain a Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) designated facility with continued emergency room, crisis stabilization, and inpatient services.

### **Enhanced Care Coordination**

Enhanced Care Coordination at SDCPH, in collaboration with BHS Case Management, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Next Steps, has continued despite the pandemic. Several patients have received care coordination treatment resulting in reduced hospital admissions and an increase in community stabilization. The enhanced care coordination team has been fully onboarded within BHS and has begun services within the hospital, which has included weekly treatment team meetings. The enhanced care coordination team has also received training in partnership with SDCPH Education Department on Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) safety protocols. Both SDCPH and the enhanced care coordination team are working directly with the health plans and aligning services to the new CalAIM structure.

### **Post Discharge Follow Up**

SDCPH has partnered with San Diego County mental health clinics and Family Health Centers to enhance client access to follow up medical and psychiatric care. In-person or videophonic meetings occur between the accepting provider and the client to increase the likelihood of both follow-up care by the client and community stabilization. Additionally, data suggests that warm handoffs are increasing client follow up care.

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

The hospital has been able to slow the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19 within the hospital through various continued infection control efforts. Employees received their booster vaccines in partnership with County Public Health Services. Nurses have administered the COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to hundreds of patients who arrive at SDCPH. Weekly COVID-19 testing occurs with patients to assist with the containment of the illness once detected. Masks remain in effect for healthcare facilities. The hospital continues to screen staff, patients, and visitors prior to coming into the hospital.

### **Honoring Heroes During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

San Diego City Council proclaimed March 2022 as Healthcare Heroes month. SDCPH was recognized for its continued work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. SDCPH will be presented with a proclamation by Councilwoman Dr. Jennifer Campbell on May 11, 2022, which coincides with National Nurses Week. This year, Nurses Week will pay special attention to the heroic efforts of nurses who despite being faced with an unseen illness, continued to provide services to the most vulnerable populations.

## **BHS SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Recognizing Administrative Professionals**

Administrative Professionals Day is observed annually on the Wednesday of the last full week of April; this it occurred on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The administrative professionals within the BHS department provide critical administrative support that is essential for maintaining seamless day-to-day operations both in administrative and direct service programs. This team of highly skilled individuals delivers excellent customer support to both internal and external customers, including providing logistical and clerical support, scheduling and facilitation for the BHAB meetings. Please take a moment to show your support and appreciation to the BHS administrative professionals.

### **HHSa Wellness Expo Kicks off Mental Health Matters Month**

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services (HHSa) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Diego once again partnered to host the **HHSa Wellness Expo** at the "NAMI Walks Your Way" 5K event held on April 30, 2022, at Liberty Station. The Expo featured over 90 exhibitors, free COVID-19 vaccinations, a Veteran's zone, and fun family activities. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> year NAMI 5K event has been held and serves as the kick-off to May is Mental Health Matters Month (MHMM) in San Diego County. HHSa Director, Nick Macchione, presented a proclamation recognizing MHMM to

NAMI CEO, Cathryn Nacario. The MHMM campaign raises public awareness of mental health to dispel the stigma surrounding it and provide resources for individuals and their loved ones. For more information, or to see other upcoming events in May, please visit the [MHMM webpage](#) on the Behavioral Health Services website.

**REMINDER: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Mental Well-Being Celebration**

Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) system of care through the CYF Liaison contract with NAMI San Diego, will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Mental Health Well-Being Celebration. This is one of the “May is Mental Health Matters Month” events and it is scheduled as a virtual event on May 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. The event will include a virtual resource fair at 4:00 p.m. This celebration is free of charge, open to the public, and BHAB members are encouraged to attend.

**Links to attend the events:**

- Link to register for the Resource Fair: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludu-orTMqH9EQiViRU6JCKwgteXtlBnMK>
- Link to attend the celebration via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/namisandiego>
- Link to attend the celebration via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN3GXgSuHAKVn-bDI5xus9Q>
- Link to attend the celebration via Twitch: [https://www.twitch.tv/nami\\_sd\\_cyfl](https://www.twitch.tv/nami_sd_cyfl)

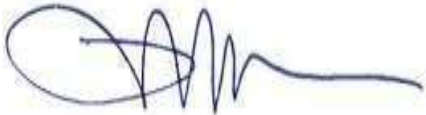
**REMINDER: CYF Annual Conference**

The CYF Annual Conference will be held virtually on May 26, 2022. The focus of the 2022 conference is Peer Partners in CYF. Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded to peer support partners to attend the conference. The appointed BHAB members to the CYF Council are invited to attend as BHS guests.

**Link to Register:**

[https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/rihs/cyfsoc-conference-2022/?utm\\_source=Gmail&utm\\_medium=Email+Signature&utm\\_campaign=CYFSOCCON2022](https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/rihs/cyfsoc-conference-2022/?utm_source=Gmail&utm_medium=Email+Signature&utm_campaign=CYFSOCCON2022)

Respectfully submitted,



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