
Director's Report

February 15, 2017



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Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness
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DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

Stakeholder Meetings Explore Potential Jail Diversion Grant: On February 9 and 14 community stakeholders attended forums in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria to provide feedback on a potential county grant that, if awarded, would fund a jail diversion pilot program. A proposed Santa Barbara County Post-Arrest Diversion and Support (PADS) pilot program seeks to divert individuals with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders to trauma-informed, community-based wraparound services as an alternative to jail. Through a potential grant made possible by Prop 47, the County is proposing to serve 40 people per year in South County. In the process, we will collaborate with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to develop a promising diversion model to reduce incarceration for high-risk populations that can be replicated in other regions of our County and statewide.

Triennial Department of Health Care Services Review Completed: The three-day Triennial California Department of Health Care Services System and Chart Review of the Department of Behavioral Wellness was completed on February 9. Overall, the department did quite well. In fact, results were better than the last Triennial review. The chart review showed improvement from the last review. As charts reviewed were selected from the end of the 2015 calendar year, many recent improvements are not reflected in this audit. We look forward to our next Triennial Review in which these improvements will be seen. We appreciate the hard work that numerous staff members contributed in preparing for the review.

Forensic Services Manager Named: John Lewis, Ph.D., has been selected to serve as the Forensic Services Manager for the Department of Behavioral Wellness. Dr. Lewis is a licensed psychologist with 21 years of post-doctoral experience in a wide range of settings, including county, state and federal governmental agencies. His interests in forensic psychology date back to his pre-doctoral internship. As Forensic Services Manager, Dr. Lewis will work closely with the courts, attorneys, families and children as advisor and treatment coordinator to victims, families and court personnel. Dr. Lewis will begin on February 27. We welcome him to the department.

Crisis Services Manager Selected: John Winckler, MFT, has been appointed Crisis Services Manager for the Behavioral Wellness Department. He will oversee 46 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members who provide crisis response. John will assume his new duties on February 13. John brings extensive leadership/management experience and over 25 years of direct experience working in the field of behavioral health with both adults and children. John currently serves as Behavioral Wellness Department Team Supervisor of the South County Mobile Crisis and Crisis Triage programs. John earlier worked for

Behavioral Wellness (formerly ADMHS) from 1998 – 2008 in Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services and within the Multi-Agency Integrated System of Care (MISC) children’s services program. After leaving in 2008, he worked with Santa Clara County Behavioral Health as a Program Director with Family and Children’s Services (FCS). We welcome John to his new role.

Behavioral Wellness Annual Report is Online: The Fiscal Year 2015-16 Annual Report for the Department of Behavioral Wellness [is online here](#).

Common Ground Thanks Volunteers: The Common Ground Santa Barbara County Team thanks everyone who helped with the Point in Time Count of homeless people on January 26. Volunteers assisted with the count and care and referral centers, organized “sock & supply drives,” and donated to the efforts. The [Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness \(C3H\)](#) plans to report to the community as soon as the data are analyzed.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month: According to the Centers for Disease Control, “in a recent national survey, 1 in 10 teens reported being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend at least once in the 12 months before the survey. Additionally, during the 12 months before the survey, 1 in 10 teens reported they had been kissed, touched, or physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to at least once by someone they were dating.” Learn more about [Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships](#) and the [Dating Matters Capacity Assessment and Planning Tool](#).

SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR

- **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.
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meets at 301 N. R Street every other month on the third Tuesday. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jeanie Sleigh Jeanie.Sleigh@sbcphd.org or Sandy Fahey sfahey@sbcbswell.org.
- **Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership:** meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:15 pm at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Amanda Pyper, ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.
- **Santa Barbara Children’s Regional Partnership:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Amanda Pyper, ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

- **Santa Maria Children’s Regional Partnership Meeting** is held every 3rd Monday of the month at 10 am in the large meeting room at the Foster Road Clinic. Questions: Amanda Pyper, epatarias@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: Amanda Pyper, epatarias@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.
- **The Cultural Competency Action Team** meets the second Friday of each month, 9:30-11:00 am, Locations: Behavioral Wellness Conference Room and Santa Maria Annex via videoconference. Contact Yaneris Muñiz, ymuniz@sbcbswell.org.
- **The Peer Action Team** meets the third Thursday of the Month from 2 – 4:30 pm. Contact Tina Wooton, 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.
- **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.