

Director's Report

May 20, 2016



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Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness
(805) 681-5220 ♦ <http://countyofsb.org/behavioral-wellness>

New School Outreach Initiative Launched for Mental Health Month: To celebrate Mental Health Month, the Department of Behavioral Wellness contacted every public school superintendent in Santa Barbara County. Superintendents were informed of Mental Health Month resources and activities that support student and family behavioral health and fight stigma. They were also reminded that Behavioral Wellness is a county-wide resource for behavioral health treatment and education. On May 2nd Suzanne Grimmesey, MFT, Chief Quality Care and Strategy Officer, spoke to the Goleta School District Wellness Council about “Mental Wellness in the School System,” and she also made a presentation at Career Day at San Marcos High School on May 6th. She will also speak at the Santa Barbara County Wellness Council Summit in October. Many additional school outreach efforts – literature tables and speaking engagements -- are likely to result from the May outreach campaign.

On May 7, Behavioral Wellness co-hosted a literature table with the Santa Barbara City College Wellness Connections program at the Cottage Hospital Wellness Fair. Santa Barbara City College and Behavioral Wellness are collaborating on campus outreach as part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) First Episode Psychosis initiative. Several members of the Office of Quality Strategy Management supported the various outreach activities. Also, a resolution in support of Mental Health Month was presented during a Board of Supervisors’ hearing.

Behavioral Wellness Receives Grant for New Lompoc Crisis Residential Facility: The final round of funding of \$1.1 million from Senate Bill 82 received by Behavioral Wellness will be used to create a new crisis residential facility in Lompoc. This six-bed facility will offer a wide array of services in a supportive and caring environment. Like crisis residential facilities operating in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, daily in-house peer-led programs will include support groups, daily living skills training, access to community resources, and development of personal support systems. The Lompoc facility is expected to open in summer of 2017. We thank Laura Zeitz, RN, and Annie Chen for their hard work in preparing the successful funding proposal.

Three Staff Positions Announced: The Department of Behavioral Wellness has appointed Lindsay Walter, JD, as Deputy Director for Administration and Operations, Chris Ribeiro, MBA, as Deputy Director-Chief Financial Officer and Amanda Pyper, MFT, as Santa Maria Regional Manager.

Ms. Walter earned a BA degree in Economics from the University of California Los Angeles and became an attorney after receiving a Juris Doctorate degree from Santa Barbara College of Law. She joined the Department of Behavioral Wellness in 2006 as an Accountant, was promoted to the role of an Accountant Supervisor, Fiscal Business Manager and more recently, Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Ribeiro received a BS Degree in Business Administration, Finance concentration and an MBA from Cal State University, Stanislaus. He also earned a certificate in Professional Accounting from the University of California, Santa Barbara extension program. He joined the Department of Behavioral Wellness in 2006 as an accountant and took on a series of increasingly challenging responsibilities, most recently serving as Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Pyper is licensed as Marriage and Family Therapist. She received a Master's in Public Administration from Cal State Northridge and received a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She has served as a Program Manager with Casa Pacifica's SAFTY program and as an Adult Services Manager with Ventura County Behavioral Health Services. She has also conducted crisis assessment and intervention for clients in the Cottage Hospital Emergency Room and provided admission assessments for the voluntary psychiatric inpatient unit.

We congratulate Lindsay, Chris and Amanda, and we are confident they will each continue to make major contributions to behavioral health services in Santa Barbara County.

Congratulations to recent Behavioral Wellness Department Leadership Institute

Graduates: Yaneris Muñiz, Deana Huddleston, MFT, and Ana Vicuña, LCSW, recently completed the full course requirements of the Leadership Institute of the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. The Leadership Institute is a development program designed to help participants become effective system leaders and innovators in public behavioral health and related health systems.

New Initiative Seeks to Reduce Out-of-County Foster Care Placements: For over a decade, California has implemented policies to reduce the number of children in out-of-home foster care placements. In partnership with the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has launched the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort to be authorized through Senate Bill 1013. The CCR will develop recommended revisions to the state's current rate-setting system, services and programs serving children and families in the continuum of Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC)-eligible placement settings.

The Continuum of Care Reform seeks to develop a comprehensive reform effort to ensure that youth in foster care have their day-to-day physical, mental, and emotional needs met; that they have the greatest chance to grow up in permanent and supportive homes; and that they have the opportunity to grow into self-sufficient, successful adults. These issues are addressed by providing families who provide foster care, now known as resource families, targeted training and support so that they are better prepared to care for youth living with them. CCR also advances California's long-standing goal to move away from the use of long-term group home care by increasing youth placement in family settings and by transforming existing group home care into places where youth who are not ready to live with families can receive short term, intensive treatment. The senate bill provides a timeline to implement this shift in placement options and related performance measures. Several key components are being discussed within the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) as new obligations will occur for county mental health systems with CCR implementation.

Next Steps: The Department of Behavioral Wellness remains active in the California Behavioral Health Directors' Association forums as key components of CCR are implemented in Santa Barbara County.

National Nurses Week Celebrated: The Behavioral Wellness Crisis Stabilization Unit on the South County campus hosted a party to honor Behavioral Wellness Staff on May 12th. Each year National Nurses Week is held from May 6 through May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. Established in 1954, National Nurses Week recognizes the contributions that nurses and nursing make to the community. Thanks to everyone who organized and participated in this event.

Behavioral Health Care Providers Updated on Changes in Law and Ethics: On May 11, Linda Garrett, JD, presented "Law and Ethics for County Behavioral Health Care Providers: New Legislation, HIPAA

and Confidentiality Review” for practitioners serving public behavioral health clients. “Charting Issues for County Healthcare Providers” was presented in the afternoon. Many Behavioral Health staff members attended both presentations and learned current information useful for effectively maintaining best practices.

PathPoint Named 2015 Community Partnership Merit Finalist: PathPoint, the nonprofit organization that manages the Behavioral Wellness Supported Housing program in South County, is the recipient of the 2015 Mutual of America Community Partnership Merit Finalist Award. In South Santa Barbara County, PathPoint provides on-site support to individuals with behavioral health challenges residing in El Carrillo, Artisan Court and Bradley Studios. According to PathPoint’s CEO Cynthia Burton, “The Behavioral Health Residential Support Services program has provided more than 200 formerly homeless individuals a pathway to recovery, wellness and hope. The program is helping to reunite families. It is also easing the strain on vital community resources. By giving our most vulnerable citizens access to crucial social support services and a place to call home, the program is helping them to make healthy choices, realize new strengths and reach personal goals.”

Systems Change Calendar

Please confirm the meeting time and location prior to attending.

- **May 19, 2016 - Children's Regional Partnership Santa Barbara:** Meets the 3rd Thursday of month at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic 429 N San Antonio Rd., Room 119, 1:30 pm -2:30 pm. Contact: Crystal Ramirez, <mailto:cramirez@sbcbswell.org>
- **May 19, 2016 - South County Adult Regional Partnership Meeting,** 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Meets the 3rd Thursday of month at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic 429 N San Antonio Rd. Details: Crystal Ramirez, cramirez@sbcbswell.org; 884-6887
- **May 19, 2016—Consumer and Family Meetings:** Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1455 Mission Drive, Holiday Inn Express, Solvang, 2:00-4:30. Contact: Tina Wooton twooton@sbcbswell.org; 681-5323.
- **May 25, 2016 - Change Agents:** Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month 9:00-12:30 pm via videoconference at the following locations: Santa Maria large conference room, Santa Barbara Children's large conference room, Lompoc Cypress, ACT conference room. Contact: Kathie Cisek at 681- 4773, kcisek@sbcbswell.org.
- **May 26, 2016 - Children's System of Care Action Team:** Meets the 4th Thursday of the month 10:30-12:00 pm at SELPA Conference Room; 240 E. HWY 246, Suite 200 Buellton CA 93127. For more information, contact Tom Sodergren (805) 570-5240 or TSodergren@casapacifica.org or Ana Vicuña, avicuña@sbcbswell.org.
- **May 26, 2016 - Cultural Competency Action Team:** Meets the last Thursday of the month 10:30-12:00 pm at the Behavioral Wellness Conference Room 119, Lompoc and Santa Maria video conference call. For more information contact Cuco Rodriguez: (805) 681-4505 or cucorodriguez@sbcbswell.org.

- **May 26, 2016 – Steering Committee:** Meets the 4th Thursday of the month 1:30-4:00 pm BOS Conference Room Santa Barbara
- **June 6, 2016 - Peer Action Team:** Meets the 1st Monday of the month from 10:00-11:00 a.m. via video conference, Santa Barbara MHSA Conference Room, Santa Maria Foster Road Small Conference Room, Lompoc Cypress Conference Room. Contact Tina Wooton, twooton@sbcbswell.org; 681-5323 or Kit McMillion, 259-9609; naftili@icloud.com.
- **June 8, 2016 - Housing, Empowerment, Action and Recovery Team (HEART):** Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1 pm - 2:30 pm, via video conferencing between Lompoc Cypress Conference Room, Santa Maria Foster Road Annex, Santa Barbara Conference Room 261, Behavioral Wellness Administration. Contact: Debbie McCoy at 455-9334 or deborah.d.mccoy2@gmail.com; Laura Zeitz, (805) 722-0136 or lazeitz@sbcbswell.org; Frank Thompson (805) 957-1301 thompsonhc@aol.com
- **June 16, 2016 - Children's Regional Partnership Santa Barbara:** Meets the 3rd Thursday of month at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic 429 N San Antonio Rd., Room 119, 1:30 pm -2:30 pm. Contact: Crystal Ramirez, cramirez@sbcbswell.org
- **June 16, 2016 - Adult Regional Partnership Meeting, 2:30 – 4:00 pm,** Meets the 3rd Thursday of month at the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic, 429 N San Antonio Rd. Details: Crystal Ramirez, cramirez@sbcbswell.org; 884-6887
- **June 16, 2016—Consumer and Advisory Committee:** Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1455 Mission Drive, Holiday Inn Express, Solvang, 2:00-4:30. Contact: Tina Wooton twooton@sbcbswell.org; 681-5323.
- **July 19, 2016 – Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting,** Lompoc Public Health, 3:30- 4:30 pm. For questions, contact Sandra Fahey, sfahey@sbcbswell.org.