

# Director's Report

June 15, 2016



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

**Board of Supervisors Supports AOT Pilot:** On May 10 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to support a three-year assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) pilot program under AB 1421, or Laura's Law. Ten at-risk adults with severe mental illness will receive intensive outpatient services. AB 1421 authorizes court-ordered outpatient treatment for highly at-risk adults with severe mental illness who meet a strict set of criteria, including recent hospitalizations and/or incarcerations, a pattern of violent behavior, lack of willingness to engage in treatment, etc.

Although AB 1421 was passed into law in 2002, implementation was left to the discretion of each county upon approval by the board of supervisors. On May 10, 2016, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to support an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) pilot program and allocate \$606,888 for its implementation. Dr. Pam Fisher will be leading the department's planning process, and recruitment for an AOT Manager will begin shortly. The AOT pilot program plan will go before the Board in November.

**Board Supports Narcotic Treatment Program:** On Tuesday, June 7, Dr. Gleghorn spoke to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the benefits of methadone and medication-assisted treatment for individuals receiving narcotic replacement therapy and outpatient detoxification services in Santa Barbara County. This formal presentation was requested by the BOS in preparation for the FY 16-17 contract renewal of Santa Barbara's narcotic treatment program (NTP) provider, Aegis Treatment Centers (ATC). The BOS inquired about the efficacy and indication of methadone as a medication, specifics about NTP treatment services and ATC outcomes. Dr. Gleghorn explained that methadone and NTP have a long and very solid research base of success and that Aegis had and was providing quality services. NTPs are particularly important because we are in the grips of an opioid epidemic.

Dr. Gleghorn explained that methadone is the original medication used to assist substance use disorder treatment. Other medications, such as suboxone and naltrexone, are now being used as alternatives to methadone to assist in the treatment of opioid and alcohol use disorder. Some members of the BOS expressed concerns over the length of stay in methadone maintenance treatment and questioned whether more clients could taper off of the medication. Public comments by Good Samaritan Services Incorporated and others were critical of NTP in general and the location of the ATC Santa Maria clinic. The Aegis contract will be before the Board June 21st, and Behavioral Wellness will return to the BOS next year to present a performance update.

**Crisis Team Supervisors Named:** Larisa Traga, LCSW, CCDS, will transfer from Lompoc Children's clinic to serve as the Santa Maria Crisis Team Supervisor. She has diverse experience in the county behavioral health system, is a highly skilled clinician and a trainer in Motivational Interviewing, and she has been a key participant in systems change efforts. The Santa Barbara Crisis Team will be overseen by John Winckler, MFT, who comes from the Bay area with extensive experience in government and private settings as a practitioner, supervisor and manager. He has crisis, forensic, adult and youth outpatient experience with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness.

We are grateful to Theresa Vogel and Ray Mayer for stepping up and providing supervision to our teams during the

tedious process of recruiting and selecting permanent team supervisors for your regions. Both did outstanding jobs in difficult circumstances, often while still holding down some of their regular responsibilities.

**Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager Appointed:** Yaneris Muñiz, acting Policy and Project Development Coordinator for the Department of Behavioral Wellness, will be assuming the role of the Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager for the Department. Yaneris currently works within the Office of Quality Care and Strategy Management (OQSM). Yaneris will be maintaining her existing policy and project development duties and current reporting structure in addition to the expanded leadership responsibilities of this new role.

The Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager is responsible for ensuring that each county meets cultural and linguistic competence standards in the delivery of community based behavioral health services. In Yaneris' role as the Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager, she will function as the liaison between the Department of Behavioral Wellness and the key cultural groups throughout our countywide communities. County Ethnic Services and Diversity Managers also are responsible for the research and implementation of the Department's Cultural Competency Plan required by the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as well as chairing and coordinating the Cultural Competence Action Team (CCAT). We welcome Yaneris to her new expanded Leadership assignment within the Department of Behavioral Wellness.

**Staff Kudos:** A belated congratulation Larry Burnham, LPT, and his four-person bowling team that represented the Santa Barbara Behavioral Wellness Department on last February at the Probation Bowling Tournament in Santa Maria. The team was phenomenal, scoring well over, 1,400 points, winning first place. We also thank the Behavior Wellness doctors who donated to sponsor a team.

**Principles in Practice #6 Published:** The sixth in a series of "principles in practices" discussions about the foundational concepts guiding behavioral health in Santa Barbara County has been published. The article, which offers examples of wellness, recovery and resilience, is available online [here](#).

**All-Staff Appreciation Gathering a Success:** On June 1 Behavioral Wellness staff came together to network and share department updates, great food and wellness activities. More details are available in the June Staff Update [here](#).

## Systems Change Calendar

System Stakeholders are welcome to attend. Please confirm the meeting time and location prior to attending.

- **June 15, 2016 – Forensic Action Team:** Solvang Courtroom at 1745 Mission Dr., Solvang, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. Questions: Stacy McCrory, 681-5436, [smccrory@sbcbswell.org](mailto:smccrory@sbcbswell.org).
- **June 16, 2016 - Santa Barbara 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@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:cramirez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us); 884-6887.
- **June 16, 2016 - Santa Barbara 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](mailto:cramirez@sbcbswell.org); 884-6887
- **June 16, 2016—Consumer and Family Member Advisory Committee:** Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1455 Mission Drive, Holiday Inn Express, Solvang, 2:00-4:30. Contact: Tina Wooton [twooton@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:twooton@co.santa-barbara.ca.us); 681-5323.

- **June 20, 2016 - Santa Maria Adult Regional Partnership Meeting** (third Monday of each month) 11 am, details: Amanda Pyper, MFT, 981-6510, [ampyper@sbcbswell.org](mailto:ampyper@sbcbswell.org).
- **June 20, 2016 - Santa Maria Children's Regional Partnership Meeting** (third Monday of each month) 10 am, details: Amanda Pyper, MFT, 981-6510, [ampyper@sbcbswell.org](mailto:ampyper@sbcbswell.org).
- **June 22, 2016 - Change Agents:** Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month 9:00-12:30 pm via video conferencing. 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@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kcisek@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **June 23, 2016 - Children's System of Care:** Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:TSodergren@casapacifica.org). or Ana Vicuna [avicuna@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:avicuna@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).
- **June 23, 2016 – Steering Committee:** Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month 1:30-4:00 pm BOS Conference Room Santa Barbara. Contact Kathie Cisek, 681-4773, [kcisek@sbcbswell.org](mailto:kcisek@sbcbswell.org).
- **July 8, 2016 - Cultural Competency Action Team:** 9:30 - 11 am. MHSA Santa Barbara Conference Room and Santa Maria Annex via videoconference. Questions: Yaneris Muñiz, 884-1660, [ymuniz@sbcbswell.org](mailto:ymuniz@sbcbswell.org).
- **July 11, 2016 - Peer Action Team:** 10 - 11 am, Santa Barbara MHSA Conference Room, Santa Maria Annex, Lompoc ACT conference room via videoconferencing. Questions: Tina Wooton, [twooton@sbcbswell.org](mailto:twooton@sbcbswell.org); 681-5323.
- **July 18, 2016 - Santa Maria Adult Regional Partnership Meeting** (third Monday of each month) 11 am - 12 noon, Foster Road Clinic Conference Room, details: Amanda Pyper, MFT, 981-6510, [ampyper@sbcbswell.org](mailto:ampyper@sbcbswell.org).
- **July 18, 2016 - Santa Maria Children's Regional Partnership Meeting** (third Monday of each month) 10 - 11 am, Foster Road Clinic Conference Room, details: Amanda Pyper, MFT, 981-6510, [ampyper@sbcbswell.org](mailto:ampyper@sbcbswell.org).
- **July 19, 2016 – Lompoc Primary and Behavioral Health Care Collaborative**, 301 N. R St., 3:30- 4:30 pm. For questions, contact Sandra Fahey, [sfahey@sbcbswell.org](mailto:sfahey@sbcbswell.org), 737-6600.
- **July 21, 2016 - Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership Meeting**, 2:30 - 4 pm, Children's Clinic Room 127. Questions: Crystal Ramirez, [cramirez@sbcbswell.org](mailto:cramirez@sbcbswell.org); 884-6887.
- **July 21, 2016 - Santa Barbara Children's Regional Partnership Meeting**, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Children's Clinic Room 127. Questions: Crystal Ramirez, [cramirez@sbcbswell.org](mailto:cramirez@sbcbswell.org); 884-6887.
- **July 27, 2016 - Change Agent Meeting**, 9 - 11 am, Santa Barbara Children's Clinic Room 127m Lompoc ACT conference room, Santa Maria Annex via videoconferencing. Crystal Ramirez, [cramirez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:cramirez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **July 28, 2016 - Children's System of Care Action Team**, 10:30 am - 12 noon, SELPA Conference Room, 240 East Highway 246, Suite 200, Buellton. Questions: Ana Vicuña, [avicuna@sbcbswell.org](mailto:avicuna@sbcbswell.org); 698-0385.
- **July 28, 2016 -Steering Committee**, 1:30 - 4:00 pm, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria Board of Supervisors' Conference Rooms. Questions: Kathie Cisek, [kcisek@sbcbswell.org](mailto:kcisek@sbcbswell.org); 681-4773.