
Director's Report

November 16, 2016



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

DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

Staff Members Support 2016 Veterans Stand Down: Several Behavioral Wellness staff members supported the 2016 Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down that was held at Santa Maria Fairpark on October 15th. The event offered a wide range of services, including readjustment and crisis counseling, employment and housing assistance, medical screenings, veterinary assistance for pets, and much more. Thank you, Dr. Chris Matosich, Garrett Bakke and Amy Lopez.

Behavioral Wellness Reaches Out to Caregivers: On Saturday, November 5th, the United Domestic Worker's (UDW) held a member appreciation event in Santa Maria in recognition of Caregiver Month. Yaneris Muñiz, Ethnic Services and Diversity Manager, and Enrique Bautista, Patients' Rights Advocate, were invited to participate. A presentation on accessing Behavioral Wellness services was provided to over 150 attendees. In addition to other local non-profits, several candidates active in local political races spoke to UDW members, including County Supervisor Salud Carbajal.

Emma Godinez Named Fiscal Manager: The Department of Behavioral Wellness welcomes Emma Godinez as Behavioral Wellness Fiscal Manager. She reports to the Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for leading a team of 11 people, five of whom directly report to her. The Fiscal Manager operates as the internal control for all fiscal operational transactions for the management of the department's budget of \$118 million. Emma earned a B.S. degree in Business from the University of Phoenix and an MPA from the University of Phoenix is pending. Emma comes with 17 years of experience in finance and accounting in the public sector. She began serving as the Fiscal Manager on October 3, 2016.

Contracts Team Strengthened: Melanie Johnson has been appointed Contracts Manager, and contracts team member Qiuana Lopez has been promoted to the position of Department Business Specialist. Melanie, who was selected through a competitive recruitment process, is responsible for leadership of the contracts team and procurement of all departmental contracts. Melanie joins the department with 30 years of experience in leadership and working as an attorney. She served as the general counsel for the Iowa Department of Economic Development for over two decades.

After two years of working in an extra-help capacity to support the Behavioral Wellness contracts team, Qiuana Lopez has been appointed to the civil service position of Department Business Specialist II. Qiuana has more than 15 years of experience providing administrative assistance in a variety of forums, including service as a residential mortgage credit analyst, research assistant and instructor for San Diego State

University and the University of Texas in Austin.

Permanent Housing Facility in Development: The Department of Behavioral Wellness is working with the Mental Wellness Center and the Santa Barbara City Housing Authority to develop a new permanent housing facility for five chronically homeless women. Via Vida will offer a live-in house manager and a part time service coordinator to provide support, education and other resources in the home. Residents will use Shelter Plus-Care vouchers to fund their housing costs.

OSHPD Peer Training Grant Extension Enables Expansion of Support Groups: Hundreds of additional promotora support groups will be conducted countywide, thanks to recent approval of an extension of a grant from Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). The grant has been extended to June 2017. Behavioral Wellness will provide several hundred additional sessions. Currently, support groups are held in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta and Guadalupe. New groups will be established in Lompoc and Santa Maria. Promotora support groups focus on a range of topics to the development of self-care and coping skills to enhance emotional and mental wellbeing. The promotora model is an evidence-based practice that uses members from under-served communities as health educators who gain the trust of individuals and families with similar backgrounds.

Crisis Action Team Focuses Policy Development, Inter-Agency Collaboration: The Crisis Action Team (CAT) has divided into workgroups to address key issues, including peer involvement, children's crisis services, law enforcement relations, medical clearance policies, residential treatment bed needs and developing a more welcoming system.

- The CAT initiated meetings with law enforcement to increase inter-agency communication to provide mental health interventions for appropriate individuals in psychiatric crisis, rather than arrest.
- To resolve misunderstandings from emergency rooms regarding the criteria that would allow a person to be admitted to the Psychiatric Health Facility, especially regarding comorbid medical, and/or substance intoxication or withdrawal problems, a CAT workgroup collaborated with leaders in emergency rooms to develop a policy, "Medical Clearance Screening."
- Stakeholders in the CAT, mobile crisis line staff members and others collaborated to develop two additional key policies, "Crisis Assessment Procedures" and "5150 Application and Placement." These policies address specific criteria and are standardizing the process of involuntary hospitalization throughout the county.
- Workgroups were formed to evaluate 5150 petitions, analyze the needs of clients who frequently use crisis services and expand opportunities for transportation of clients to the emergency room and to psychiatric hospital on a voluntary basis.

Most Clinicians Trained in 5150s: The Behavioral Wellness Training Division is pleased to announce that all but three clinical staff members have completed the 5150 training that includes risk assessment, safety planning and recognizing the conditions necessary to write a 5150/5585 hold.

Measures Implemented to Correct Undercount of Medi-Cal-Eligible Hispanics: The Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services recently conducted a review of data and information extracted from the State CalMeds database, and determined that between 2008 and the present,

individuals identified as Hispanic and Medi-Cal-eligible were significantly under-counted. The investigation was spurred by observations made by the Department of Behavioral Wellness, which identified significant discrepancies between state-generated data on county Medi-Cal penetration rates by ethnicity and local data produced from our electronic health system. Although the penetration rate is calculated for behavioral health services as part of the annual External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) review, the data originate from Medi-Cal eligibility files created by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

When an extensive review was recently performed by DSS at the request of Behavioral Wellness, it was discovered that a change in data collection systems by the California Department of Social Services impacted collection of ethnic and racial categories beginning in 2008. This resulted in an undercount of Hispanic, Medi-Cal-eligible individuals. The data is collected as part of the CalWIN system used for 18 California counties involved in the CalFresh program.

As result of this review, Santa Barbara County DSS is now developing strategies to ensure that ethnic origin and racial data are correctly captured. Modifications will also occur as new Medi-Cal applications are filed and annual renewal applications are completed. During the period of correction, which is expected to take a year, Santa Barbara County DSS will provide Behavioral Wellness with detailed status updates on a monthly basis. This information has been shared with various state organizations, as other counties are also impacted. Behavioral Wellness is particularly grateful to Maria Gardner at DSS for her thorough research of this issue. Saumitra Sengupta from Behavioral Health Concepts also provided essential information in identifying the timing of the data shift.

The most recent update from DSS indicates that all current procedures for DSS eligibility staff training have been completed. In addition, DSS remains actively engaged in the process of manually updating case records. The expected completion date for utilization data matches (cross referencing files) between Behavioral Wellness and DSS clients is expected to occur by November 30, 2016. The final updating of all case records is expected to occur by December 31, 2016. DSS has made a formal request to CalWIN for the correcting of the reference table and the correction process remains in progress. Dr. Gleghorn has also notified DHCS about the data issues and their impact on penetration rate estimates.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Tina Wooton Elected MHSOAC Chair: On October 27 Behavioral Wellness Consumer Empowerment Manager Tina Wooton was elected Chair of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). The terms begin January 2017 and will be effective for one year. Currently serving as Vice Chair, Tina has served as a Commissioner since 2010. She has worked in the mental health system for 23 years, advocating for consumers and family members at the local, state and federal levels. MHSOAC is a state board that oversees the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), develops strategies to overcome stigma and advises the Governor and Legislature on mental health policy.

“No Place Like Home” to Assist Homeless Individuals: Current plans for the No Place Like Home initiative (AB 1618), to be administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), call for the distribution of \$2 billion dollars among all California counties. Funding will be used as deferred payment loans to finance capital costs of permanent supportive housing for persons who are eligible for services under Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, and are homeless,

chronically homeless or at risk of chronic homelessness. The funding will be divided into a competitive program (\$1.8 billion) and a non-competitive program (\$200 million) for counties.

Initially, HCD will distribute \$200 million on a non-competitive basis to finance construction, rehabilitation, or preservation. Funding will also capitalize operating reserves of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental health supportive needs who are homeless or at risk of chronic homelessness. Funds will be made available to all California counties and are proportionate to the number of homeless persons residing in each county, with a minimum funding level of \$500,000. Funds will be allocated in at least four competitive funding rounds to occur over a five-year period. It is hoped that initial funding will be available in 2017.

New Website on Opioid Safety Includes County-Specific Data: In collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, the California Healthcare Foundation has put together an excellent website that features indicators related to overdoses, ED visits, substance use disorder prescribers and more. The state and county-specific data are available. The [California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard](#) included in this website will provide a nice tool for Performance Improvement Projects for counties and will include county-specific information.

Major Addiction Report to be Unveiled at National Summit: Facing Addiction, a national non-profit organization comprising the largest addiction stakeholder network in the country, will sponsor a national summit on November 17 to release the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on the science behind preventing and treating substance misuse and addiction and supporting recovery from substance use disorders. The groundbreaking report, which addresses the country's leading public health crisis, is *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*. Facing Addiction is co-hosting this unprecedented event to mark the release of the report. To watch the summit live on November 17 visit www.facingaddiction.org.

SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR

- **The Systems Change Steering Committee** will meet on November 17, 1:30 – 4:00 pm, Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 106 E Anapamu St. Video Conferencing available at the Santa Maria Board of Supervisors meeting room.
- **Change Agent Meeting:** November 30, 9 am – 11 am, Via videoconference at the following locations: 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. Change agents meet the fourth Wednesday of every month 9 – 11 am except during quarterly in-person meetings, which are 9 am – 12 noon. Questions: Nathan Post, npost@sbcbswell.org.
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** The next meeting is January 17, 3:30-4:30, 301 N. R Street and every other month on the third Tuesday thereafter. If you are interested in participating please contact Jeanie Sleight Jeanie.Sleight@sbcphd.org or Sandy Fahey sfahey@sbcbswell.org. The next meeting is November 15, 3:30-4:30, 301 N. R Street and every other month on the third Tuesday thereafter.
- **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, ampyper@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, ampyper@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 Jonathan Eymann, jeymann@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.