

# Director's Report

January 18, 2017



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

## DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

**CMS Audit of PHF a Success:** Gerardo Puga-Cervantes, LMFT, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Program Manager, states that the recent CMS Audit was a success and PHF leadership wants to thank everyone who participated and provided support to PHF staff. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) survey revisit occurred on 12/12/2016. The surveyors were impressed with the overall improvements the facility had undergone and provided positive comments regarding excellent patient care. They also commented about the honesty and courtesy of the PHF staff. Special thanks to all Nursing staff, Social Services staff, Recreational Therapist, Recovery Assistants, Dietician and Administrative Office Professionals for making our CMS Survey revisit a success! Kudos as well to our Infection Control and Pharmacy contractors!

**Behavioral Wellness Commissioners Named:** On January 17, 2017 Das Williams (First District) was appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors as the Board of Supervisors representative on the newly formed Behavioral Wellness Commission, which will hold a special meeting on January 30, 2017. Thirteen members have been named as Behavioral Wellness Commissioners:

### **First District**

- 1) Wayne Mellinger, Term expiring January 2020

### **Second District**

- 1) Alicia Journey - Term expiring January 2018
- 2) Sharon Rumberger - Term expiring January 2019
- 3) Judy Blue - Term expiring January 2020
- 4) Ruth Ackerman - Term expiring January 2020

### **Third District**

- 1) Tom Franklin - Term expiring January 2020
- 2) Peter Claydon, Term expiring January 2020
- 3) Rev. Mary Moreno Richardson, Term expiring January 2020

### **Fourth District**

- 1) Sharon Byrne - Term expiring January 2018
- 2) Edwin Weaver - Term expiring January 2019

### **Fifth District**

- 1) John Ray Truman - Term expiring January 2019
- 2) Charles Huffines - Term expiring January 2020
- 3) Ann Eldridge, Term expiring January 2020

As reported last month, the new Behavioral Wellness Commission is a merger of the Mental Health Commission and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems.

**Interpreter Services Expanded:** The Cultural Competence and Diversity Action Team reports that the Department's current contract with a local translation services company has been expanded to provide interpreter services countywide in all clinics and programs. In-person interpretation is available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Mixteco and other indigenous Mexican languages, Tagalog and Cantonese. An *Interpreter Use Protocol* has been developed to guide staff on coordination and proper use of interpreter services.

**Peer Navigators to be Hired for Adult Clinics:** According to the Peer Action Team, recruitment is underway for three Peer Navigators, one located at each Behavioral Wellness adult clinic. Peer Navigators will be hired to provide assistance for clients and families who come to each service site. Peer Navigators will help remove personal and environmental obstacles to healthcare access and empower clients to advance their recovery.

**Highway Patrol Trained:** The Crisis Action Team reports that Jonathan Eymann, MFT, Interim Manager for Crisis Services, participated in three trainings of California Highway Patrol officers in 2016. Approximately 130 officers gained a better understanding of the law and process behind the writing of an application for a 5150 hold. Officers were given insight into criteria, learned of the mental health crisis team member's decision-making process and learned about the legal obligation to always look for the least restrictive means to provide safety and clinically appropriate treatment. Officers were also given direct numbers for each regional mobile crisis line and the crisis services manager and were invited to call for assistance or consultation as needed.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS**

**Impact of ACA in Combating Opioid Epidemic Detailed in New Report:** On January 11 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a new report showing the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) impact in combating the nation's opioid epidemic. The key findings are:

- **Substance Misuse/Mental Health Hospitalizations** – The share of hospitalizations for substance use or mental health disorders in which the patient was uninsured fell from 22 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 (just before the ACA's major coverage provisions took effect) to about 14 percent by the end of 2014.
- **Medicaid Expansion** – In states that expanded Medicaid under the ACA, the uninsured share of substance use or mental health disorder hospitalizations fell from about 20 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 to about 5 percent by mid-2015.
- **Mental Health Care** – Between 2010 and 2015, the share of people foregoing mental health care due to cost has fallen by about one-third for people below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **ACA Repeal and overdose deaths** – The states with the highest drug overdose deaths also are projected to experience dramatic increases in their uninsured rates if the ACA were repealed. The top three – West Virginia, New Hampshire, and Kentucky – would see their uninsured rates nearly or more than triple if the ACA were repealed, as would Massachusetts.

The report is available here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/continuing-progress-opioid-epidemic-role-affordable-care-act>

**National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week is January 23-29:** National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week<sup>SM</sup> links students with scientists and other experts to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens get from the internet, social media, TV, movies, music, or from friends. It was launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to stimulate educational events in communities so teens can learn what science has taught us about drug use and addiction. More information is [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Jeanie.Sleigh@sbcphd.org) or Sandy Fahey [sfahey@sbcbswell.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ampyper@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).
- **Santa Maria Children’s Regional Partnership Meeting** is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:epatarias@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
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- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:avicuna@sbcbswell.org).

# Director's Report

February 15, 2017



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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](#).

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