

# Director's Report

September 18, 2019



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

## DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY NEWS

**Conception Dive Boat Trauma Response and Support for the Community in Healing:** Early morning Labor Day brought the news of yet another tragedy with significant impact in our community. The Conception Dive Boat, with 39 people aboard was reported to be engulfed in flames before daylight on September 2. 5 Crew members survived and 34 lives were lost. Behavioral Wellness immediately opened a Family Assistance Center (FAC) to respond to the needs of the families impacted. The FAC served as a safe place that family, loved ones and friends of those aboard the boat could come to get information, ask questions, get help with unmet needs and get counseling support. Families came from Northern and Southern California as well as from across the United States and internationally from Singapore, China and Japan. The FAC operated on a collaborative team based model and was staffed by Behavioral Wellness, multiple local clergy and chaplains, Hospice of Santa Barbara, Red Cross, District Attorney Victim Witness Program, Sheriff/Coroner, Police and Fire representatives. Hundreds of families were able to access support through the FAC.

In addition, Behavioral Wellness in collaboration with the **Community Wellness Team** has continued to provide support for families who remain in Santa Barbara as well as those that returned home but needed linkage to resources in their home towns. Behavioral Wellness in collaboration with the **Community Wellness Team** supported the planning of the Conception Vigil and the Vigil itself including over 20 Community Wellness Team volunteers (of those, many Behavioral Wellness staff) providing emotional support throughout the vigil and most recently worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to help families go to the site of the incident. Behavioral Wellness also continues to work collaboratively with other helping agencies such as the National Transportation and Safety Board Family Services, FBI Victim Support Services, District Attorney Victim Witness and other entities working collaboratively to provide as much aid as possible to all families.

Thank you to all Behavioral Wellness Team Members who truly went above and beyond to help so many, including our collective community, in a time of greatest need and to help so many begin their journey of healing. Some of these many team members include: **Bonnie Zant, Isabel Blagborne, Rosa Cepeda, John Winckler, Lindsey Millner, Anoushka Moesley, Stacey Anderson, Janet Alexander, Kumi Eastman, Michael Allen, Virginia Moreno, Christina Jaramillo, Santiago Palacios, Ted Grunt, Carla Anderson, Shana Burns, Alice Gleghorn and Suzanne Grimesey.**

**Appointment of New Behavioral Wellness Division Chief of Clinical Operations:** After a competitive recruitment process, John Winckler has been offered and accepted the position of Behavioral Wellness Division Chief of Clinical Operations, John will transition to this position on September 23. John received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from California Lutheran University and his Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute. John holds over 20 years of experience in the Behavioral Health field and is licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist. John has served in the Department of Behavioral Wellness for many years, most recently as the Crisis Services Manager. Prior to this role, he served as the Lompoc Regional Manager and Team Supervisor for South County Crisis Services. John also worked for Behavioral Wellness between the years of 2000-2008 as a therapist in the Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services program. After leaving Behavioral Wellness in 2008 and before returning many years later, he gained experience as a Clinical Supervisor and later the Director of Medi-Cal Mental Health Programs for Family & Children Services of Silicon Valley. Within this role, John provided supervision to organization clinical staff for outpatient mental health clinics. He provided leadership in multiple programs for adults and children with serious mental illnesses including an Independent Living Program (ILP), LGBTQ, Criminal Justice, and programming for Deaf/Hard of Hearing. We welcome John to his new appointment in Behavioral Wellness.

**Behavioral Wellness Appoints New Fiscal Manager:** Josue Sanchez has been appointed to the role of the Behavioral Wellness Fiscal Manager following a competitive recruitment process. Josue began in the role of Fiscal Manager on September 9. Josue earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic State University. Prior to this appointment, Josue was most recently working as the Accounting Supervisor for Behavioral Wellness and before that he worked at the County of Santa Barbara Auditor Controller's Office as an Accountant Auditor II for 4 years. Prior to Josue beginning his work in Santa Barbara County, he worked as an Audit Intern for Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP and as a Tax Intern for Damitz Brooks Nightingale Turner & Morrisset. Josue brings expertise in audit software, FIN, Accounting Research, Process Improvement and knowledge of our Behavioral Wellness system. We congratulate Josue on this new role.

**Behavioral Wellness Staff Honored at Annual Heroes of Hospice Luncheon:** The Hospice of Santa Barbara Annual Heroes Luncheon took place on September 11, at the Coral Casino in Santa Barbara. **Suzanne Grimesey, MFT, PIO/Chief Quality Care and Strategy Officer** was honored with the Partnership Award for her work and leadership during our recent disasters including the Thomas Fire, 1/9 Debris Flow and the Conception Dive Boat tragedy. Also recognized was the Department of Behavioral Wellness and Suzanne's leadership in establishing the Community Wellness Team, a multi-agency collaborative of 13 local organizations including Hospice of Santa Barbara that was formed after the Thomas Disaster to help the community heal and build resiliency. The Community Wellness Team played a critical role in the community healing as recent as the Conception Dive Boat tragedy response.

**Behavioral Wellness in the Community - Feria de Recursos Comunitarios/Community Resource Fair:** On September 8<sup>th</sup>, **Lourdes Syso** and **Susanne Newman** represented Behavioral Wellness in hosting a resource table at a Community Resource Fair held in Santa Maria. Sponsoring organizations of this event are IMPORTA Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County Food Bank and the Center for Employment

Training. The purpose of the event was to serve local families and offer FREE services, resources and information. The event was successful with over 100 community members in attendance. Thank you **Lourdes** and **Susanne**!

**Santa Maria Youth and Family Services “The Good Life” Photo Contest:** Community members are encouraged to enter the SMVYF Photo contest and become eligible to have their artwork permanently displayed at the Santa Maria Youth & Family Center in addition to the award of cash prizes. Rules for The Good Life photo contest include: being a Santa Barbara resident; a deadline for submission of October 1 at 5 pm; a limit of three entries per person; application required for each entry; 8X10 images must be printed and mounted on foam or cardboard; and must include release for all human subjects. For questions, contact Nellie at 805-928-1701, ext 119 or [ndiaz@fsacares.org](mailto:ndiaz@fsacares.org).

#### **Suicide Awareness Month Activities Joined by Behavioral Wellness:**

- September 8 – Out of the Darkness Walk, Leadbetter Beach, Santa Barbara
- September 10 – Suicide Awareness Month Resolution received from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- September 10 – World Suicide Awareness Day Candlelight Vigil, Carpinteria
- September 13 – Transitions Mental Health Association Suicide Prevention Mental Health Forum, Santa Maria
- September 16 – Kevin Hines presentation, Marjorie Luke Theatre in Santa Barbara, sponsored by SBCC. Resource tables open at 5 pm and the presentation will begin at 6 pm. Encourage all to join!

#### **Recovery Awareness Month Activities Joined by Behavioral Wellness:**

- September 9 and 10 – SUD conference on Evidence-Based Approaches for Integrating Harm Reduction and MAT Strategies
- September 17 – National Recovery Month Resolution received from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- September 20 – Voice of Recovery Celebration, 11 am – 3 pm, Sanctuary Centers, 1136 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara. Encourage all to join!
- September 25 - Judge Kuns Recovery Day Celebration, 4 pm – 6 pm, Good Samaritan Shelter Parking Lot, 401 W Morrison, Santa Maria. Encourage all to join!
- September 28 - Recovery Day in the Park, 12 noon – 4 pm, Lompoc Veterans Hall, 100 East Locus Ave, Lompoc

**National Institute of Mental Health Funding Awarded for Sleep Study Project:** As part of a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health and in partnership with UC Berkeley, Behavioral Wellness will serve as a collaborative partner to learn more how to integrate a psychosocial sleep treatment into some of its programs. The ultimate goal is to improve the sleep health of individuals who receive services from Behavioral Wellness. This grant funding offers an opportunity to receive training and supervision in the delivery of the sleep treatment. Additionally, through this grant funding, Behavioral Wellness will be developing a train-the-trainer network to spread the sleep expertise and improve the sleep of everyone in the community. Stay tuned for further information about getting involved!

**2019 County of Santa Barbara United Way Charitable Giving Campaign:** The campaign kicked off in early September and runs until October 19. This year's theme is **"Give Where You Live!"** Behavioral Wellness has had a strong level of participation in this campaign in year's past and we thank you in advance for your participation this year.

All Behavioral Wellness staff who donate will be entered into weekly prize drawings, and many County departments will be hosting fun special events throughout the campaign including the **Online Basket Auction** that will run from September 30 – October 10. Behavioral Wellness has really made a hit in year's past with its themed baskets and we encourage all program sites to consider making a team theme basket. If your team will be making a basket, speak with your supervisor to begin coordination. Baskets must be delivered to Suzanne Grimmesey no later than September 26. For questions, please contact Suzanne at [suzkirk@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:suzkirk@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or (805) 886-5403.

As already noted in the email received from our County's Chair and Co-Chair, your generosity creates a huge impact across our county every year! Learn more about this year's campaign [here](http://scbhome.santa-barbara.ca.us/charitable/home.sbc): <http://scbhome.santa-barbara.ca.us/charitable/home.sbc>.

**Two Day Substance Use Disorder Conference Sponsored by Behavioral Wellness:** With a grant from the State, the Department of Behavioral Wellness Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) sponsored a 2-Day conference on evidenced based practices for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) on September 9 - 10. The world's leading authorities presented on Workforce Development, Harm Reduction and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to one hundred and fifty (150) attendees. Chemical Dependency Counselors, Therapists, Probation Officers and Administrators learned cutting edge strategies to attract, engage and treat clients in the most sophisticated and humane ways. The conference was well received and promises to improve our system of care.

The same grant is funding a media campaign on Safe Prescription Drug Disposal that has been broadcast numerous times on local television, radio stations and in printed media. The campaign has been impressive as evidenced by the numerous positive comments and observations, both verbal and written made by community members. It enhances our current Overdose Prevention and Reversal program to limit the access of pain killers and other dangerous medications to the general public. Finally, the grant is also funding improvements in our electronic health record, data collection and reporting systems to improve client access. Combined with established treatment and prevention efforts, including an integrated quality management system and models as the Strengthening Families Program, this additional funding has brought renewed vigor and improvement to an already successful system of substance use disorder prevention and treatment care.

**Calle Real Campus Garden Restoration Project:** With huge thanks to the United Way Day of Caring volunteers, **Behavioral Wellness Commission members, Silvia Perez, Peer Recovery Specialist for South County Crisis Services** and **Ernest Thomas, Facilities Manager**, the initial restoration clean-up began on Saturday, September 14. With the garden restoration clean up complete, the next step will be to plant the garden so that it can be maintained and enjoyed by both clients, staff, community volunteers and other County Department staff wishing to participate. Thank you to all 2019 Day of Caring Volunteers!

## Behavioral Wellness Successfully Completes First TAY Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

**Triennial Review:** The TAY DOR program recently completed its first triennial review. The final report is still in the works, however preliminary feedback highlighted many strengths and programmatic successes. The review was seamless thanks to the collaboration from many levels within our department. The teamwork between Regional Managers and Supervisors, TAY Rehabilitation Specialists, QCM and leadership was evident throughout the process of gathering documentation in preparation, as well as up to in the moment information sharing during the review. We look forward to receiving the final report and reviewing recommendations that will enhance the services being provided to our TAY DOR beneficiaries. Special thanks to **Susan Soderman, LMFT, QCM Coordinator** for leading this review process.

**New and Revised Policies Approved:** Behavioral Wellness frequently updates policies to reflect enhancements and changes to programs and practices. The following policies were recently approved and are available on the Behavioral Wellness website at <http://countyofsb.org/behavioral-wellness/policies>. You can find policies approved within the last 6 months under the tab “View Only RECENT Policies”. You can also search alphabetically, by category, or by keyword.

1. **Use and Maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (New)** – This policy was created to establish use and maintenance guidelines for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in accordance with all relevant state laws and regulations.
2. **Child Abuse Reporting (New)** -This policy establishes the guidance to Santa Barbara Department of Behavioral Wellness employees and contracted providers on mandated reporting requirements for suspected child abuse and neglect.
3. **Medication Administration (REVISED)** - This policy ensures all medications are administered in compliance with federal and state laws and standards of professional practice. Also, to provide standards and procedures for the safe administration of medications for patients admitted to the Psychiatric Health Facility.
4. **Discharge Medications (REVISED)** - The policy ensures compliance with all state and federal regulations regarding the provision of medication prescriptions for patients discharged from the Santa Barbara county Psychiatric Health Facility.
5. **Requests for Additional Food (REVISED)** - This policy provides guidance when patients request additional food servings and ensures the added food supports the nutritional and caloric needs of the patient. Also, the policy ensures patients maintain usual body weight without further weight gain during their stay at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) with the purpose of preventing and/or controlling medical issues and conditions.
6. **Ice Procurement, Storage and Handling (REVISED)** - This policy helps prevent the outbreak of foodborne illnesses caused by improper handling and dispensing of ice.

**South Counties Regional Partnership Update:** **Adult Regional Partnership** meeting was held on August 19. Hannah Grey from Family Service Agency joined as the guest presenter and provided an overview of her work in a program that is collaborating with the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara (HASB) to serve a wide range of residents with support in housing retention, housing support, and stability. This program also works to strengthen collaborations with other community organizations such as Homeless

Services, CalFresh, and Housing Authority to reduce stigma surrounding mental health services and reduce barriers to accessing these services. Other meeting participants providing program updates included the United Way and Home for Good. New AmeriCorps members are currently being recruited and will receive stipends for their terms of service. Behavioral Wellness shared an update on the recruitment of Licensed Mental Health Practitioners to develop the Coordinated Outreach and Coordinated Entry for services. Lastly, an update was provided on the pilot work assistance program for clients who receive payment for their work with the Isla Vista beautification project.

Tammy Summers provided an update on the ACT and AOT programs. The ACT program is currently working closely with the PathPoint program to identify individuals who might benefit from stepping up to the ACT program for more intensive and frequent services. In addition, opportunities for individuals to step down to a lower level of care with PathPoint were also discussed.

The Santa Barbara Children Regional Partnership Meeting's most recent meeting was held on August 15, 2019 – 2:00 to 3:00pm during which Jennifer Connolly, SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) coordinator was a guest presenter and provided an overview of the history of SELPA, their staff, funding sources and collaboration in the community. She outlined the new GROW program that is being implemented in the Therapeutic Learning Centers. Research is being conducted to determine its efficacy this pilot year. The group had discussed appropriate referrals for Individualized Education Plans and the process. Jennifer shared that the number of students whose mental health impairments affect their ability to function in school is on the rise. There has been an increase in Mental Health services in the schools to address this increase and it is hoped that many of the students will be served before the need for an IEP and SELPA evaluation and services. SELPA has 10 mental health staff, one coordinator, 4 facilitators, and 5 support staff for the SELPA wrap around program for the students that have the highest mental health impairments.

**Lompoc (West County) Regional Partnership Update:** The Lompoc Regional Partnership team did not meet in September. **Anthony Hollenback, LCSW**, Lompoc Regional Manager, shared that the Lompoc region continues to take leadership in implementing services and programs that are consistent with evidenced based model of integrated care as indicated by the SAMHSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Adult program in Lompoc is exploring ways to use an integrated (mind, body, spirit) approach for treatment. At present, the use of this model is occurring with individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health needs as a way to strengthen and support their overall recovery and treatment. The Adult program is also collaborating with Native/Indigenous leaders with a recovery model called, "Well-briety" for those interested in the integration of a spiritual approach to their recovery. **Nicole Becker, PsyD, Team Supervisor** and **Debbie Hunt, Substance Abuse Specialist**, are leading this project.

The Lompoc Child/Family program continues to take leadership with the Katie A programs/services providing assessments, screening and linkage for all youth/families in Santa Barbara County referred by CWS (Child Welfare Services). This process has benefitted from a strong collaboration led by the **Child/Family Supervisor, Thelma Macias Guerra, Careena Robb, LMFT**, Deborah Hartman, CWS, Leslie

Stamm, Probation and **Regional Manager Tony Hollenback, LCSW**. Collaborative efforts strengthen the streamlining of this process and effectively assess youth in a timely manner and link them with individualized services. Katie A. Assessors, **Melanie Seka, LMFT** and **Rosa Vail, LMFT** have demonstrated incredible success in removing barriers to care and services and ensuring that youth and families in need of critical behavioral health services receive them. This multi-disciplinary approach is making a tremendous impact in providing youth/families enhanced service delivery by coordinating with Probation, CWS and Behavioral Wellness, to create successful outcomes.

**North County Regional Partnership Update:** The Santa Maria's North County Regional Partnership Meetings are held monthly at the Santa Maria Adult Outpatient Clinic located at 500 W Foster Road in Santa Maria, CA (large conference room):

- Children's Regional Partnership Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays @ 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- Adult Regional Partnership Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Santa Maria regional partnership meetings focus on promoting the expansion of cross-sector collaboration through strengthening and sustaining key community partnerships, such as those with the county of Santa Barbara's Department of Public Health, Department of Social Services, law enforcement, CenCal Health and a variety of community-based organizations (CBO) providing mental health and/or substance abuse treatment to children, transitional aged youth (TAY) and adults in the Santa Maria region.

The partnership meetings in August focused on presentations by **Domestic Violence Solutions** (Eloisa Patterson - Outreach & Program Development Coordinator, Martha Garcia - Housing First Program Coordinator, and Miriam Ceballos – Client Advocate), **Santa Maria Bonita Elementary School District** (Carolyn Kleinsmith, RN and Brian Zimmerman), **Behavioral Wellness' Homeless Outreach Services** (Sara Grasso, LMFT – Team Supervisor), and **Good Samaritan** (Sylvia Barnard – Executive Director and Chelsea Jensen, LMFT – Program Director).

**Change Agents:** Change Agents met on August 28th and welcomed a few new Change Agents to the group. The group discussed the interventions, measurement, and data for several ongoing process improvement projects. To highlight a few projects: Change Agents reviewed a draft of a new Homeless Services informational brochure and provided input about content and style in an effort to maximize its usefulness to clients and referring staff. Lompoc Adult Clinic updated the group on the incredible progress they have made in responding more quickly to clients in crisis, and their decision to adopt the intervention based on their success. Santa Barbara Adult Clinic showed photos of the changes they have made towards beautifying their clinic lobby. Justice Alliance explored possible interventions for engaging new clients who are designated Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST). The next Change Agent meeting will be 9/25 from 9am-11am in the Children's Small Conference room (room 127). October 23rd will be the next retreat, and Santa Barbara will host.

**Housing Services (HEART) Action Team:** Much of the focus of the most recent HEART Action Team was on the "Adopt-a-Home" project which helps individuals and families who do not have basic necessities for their home, to receive these items. Currently one area of focus for this program is the upcoming opening of the Residences at Depot Street. The Adopt-A-Home program is gathering donations for

household goods and furniture for these units. This project is a collaboration between the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, United Way, Home for Good, Good Samaritan Services and Surf Development Company. For more information, please contact Jackie Bordon at 805.736.3423 ext. 4002 or [jackiebordon@hasbarco.org](mailto:jackiebordon@hasbarco.org)

**Cultural Competence and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT) Update:** The Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT) meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month from 9:30-11AM in the Santa Barbara Children's Clinic large conference room with Video conference available.

The group continues to work on many projects such as launching the second phase of the implicit bias trainings, finalizing the cultural competence needs assessment report and supporting the Innovation Technology Suite project. In the August meeting the members were provided the following project updates:

- Innovation Technology Suite: Help@Hand project- CALMHSA will host community sessions regarding digital literacy
- Implicit Bias training- second phase of the project is the evaluation component
- Cultural Competency Needs Assessment Project- a provider focus group is scheduled for 8/29
- Organizational updates

In the next couple of months, members of the CCDAT will work on identifying future team goals and review the charter.

**Crisis Action Team Update:** The Behavioral Wellness Co-Response program is continuing in partnership with the Sheriff's Department and has expanded to include the Santa Barbara Police Department (SBPD). This program involves Behavioral Wellness crisis staff working in collaboration with law enforcement. This will consist of Behavioral Wellness staff working 40 hours per week with the Sheriff's Department and 40 hours per week with the SBPD.

In addition, the Department recently received funds to function as a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) access point. Anyone identified in the current Behavioral Wellness system who would like MAT services and does not already have them can come to South County Crisis Services (SCCS) to initiate this process. MAT services will take place at the CSU or, in the future, at another site that is currently being constructed. The new site is expected to open within the next 6 months.

Behavioral Wellness also received funding for an 8 bed Sobering Center on the Calle Real Campus that is scheduled to open in January.

**Children's System of Care (CSOC) Action Team Update:** The CSOC Action Team Meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm at the Buellton Recreation Center (301 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room A, Buellton, CA).

The CSOC committee finalized its new Mission & Vision Statements in August as follows:

***The CSOC Action Team integrates a wide variety of leaders and stakeholders invested in cross-sector collaboration to ensure access and high quality behavioral/mental health care to children, adolescents, transitional aged youth (TAY) and their families throughout Santa Barbara County.***

***We look to achieve this by continuing to foster trauma-informed organizational cultures that provide trauma-responsive care, promote cultural humility, build and sustain community resiliency and steer systemic transformation.***

Prioritization of identified CSOC goals is the committee's current focus to include: 1) developing and delivering a red flag training for community partners, churches, libraries, etc. to identify (for prevention and early intervention purposes) youth and adolescents with mental health needs to link them to services; 2) establishing working relationships with elected officials and local chambers of commerce in each region to raise awareness of mental health services within our communities; and 3) exploring joint-organizational grant opportunities to assist 2-1-1 with capacity and service-delivery.

**Client Family Member Advisory Committee (CFMAC)/Peer Action Team (PAT):** At the August meeting CFMAC, members continued to discuss the CFMAC FY 2019- 2020 goals and the subcommittee meetings that need to be scheduled. Vanessa Ramos reported on her progress with the Santa Barbara Help@Hand team that is in process of developing a Consumer Mobile Application Guide that will be available on-line and at community resource tables. She reported that in moving forward with the MHSA Innovation Technology Suite-Help@Hand project, Digital Health Literacy community stakeholder sessions are scheduled for the month of August (8/19, 8/20) in all three regions of the county. Lindsay Walter, Chief MHSA Coordinator provided a MHSA update and discussed the need to obtain the "Youth perspective" representation at different committee meetings. CFMAT members also learned about the work that the Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team is engaging in and members were encouraged to participate in this action team. Also, an overview of the different staff trainings that occur throughout the department were provided.

The next meeting can be attended in-person September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-2:30PM at the following locations:

- **In Santa Barbara:** Administration 315 Camino Del Remedio- Conf Room 261 videoconference room
- **In Santa Maria:** Santa Maria Adult Clinic 500 W Foster Rd- Annex videoconference room
- **In Lompoc:** Lompoc Childrens Clinic 401 E. Ocean Ave- New Port Harbor Room

Teleconferencing is available using the following phone number and pin:

- **Server phone number:** (855)748-3535 Code: 440275

**Forensic Action Team Update:** The Forensic Action Team meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday, from 2-3:30 p.m. The Department's Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services (JJMHS) provides services to youth in Santa Maria Juvenile Hall and Los Prietos Boys' Camp, as well as those under supervision with the county Probation Department. The JJMHS team consists of licensed therapists, a psychiatrist and nursing staff who ensure youth have access to psychotherapy and psychiatric services. Over the past year this program, under the leadership of **Kathleen Curtis, LMFT**, has implemented new procedures to proactively address behavioral health matters with youth entering the Juvenile Hall facility. Youth now undergo an initial assessment designed to identify immediate/emergent needs and to address

those needs as quickly as possible. Youth requiring intervention are identified and monitored closely by Behavioral Wellness clinicians. The JJMHS team is also working closely with its Probation partners towards achieving accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC), an organization that sets high standards for medical and behavioral healthcare services in detention facilities.

**Kevin Hines to Speak in Santa Barbara at the Marjorie Luke Theatre:** In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, a unique opportunity occurred this week, where community were invited to join a Speaking Presentation by Kevin Hines on September 16th at the Marjorie Luke Theatre. This event was sponsored by Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) and was truly an amazing opportunity for our community.

**Bridges to Resilience Conference - October 14th:** The Bridges to Resilience conference is an annual one day conference which will take place this year on October 14th, at the Santa Barbara Hilton. This conference is hosted by the collaborative Santa Barbara County Children's System of Care led by Behavioral Wellness. The conference is designed for anyone who works with children, youth and families and has an interest in the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences with the goal of building a resilient and resourceful Santa Barbara County. The keynote speaker, Laura Porter, will focus on how we build a resilient culture in our county. Tickets are still available for this event! For registration, please go to this link: <https://www.bridgestoresilience.com/>.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS**

**SB 428 Youth Mental Health First Aid has Passed out of the Senate:** CBHDA Sponsored SB 428 (Pan) Mental Health First Aid passed out of the Senate and is now headed to the Governor for signature. This bill has received unanimous bipartisan support and backing from hundreds of organizations. Through the leadership at the Department of Education, this bill will require that all California schools have 10 percent of their certified and classified staff trained in behavioral health (Youth Mental Health First Aid). This bill is a critical step in supporting the wellbeing of students.

California is in the midst of a youth mental health crisis. Depression symptoms are at an all-time high for high school students. A national survey by the Department of Health and Human Services found that nearly 1 in 3 California high schoolers reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row, so much that they stopped doing some of their usual activities. Nearly 1 in 5 reported that they have seriously considered attempting suicide. Sponsors of this bill include the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies along with the California Behavioral Health Directors Association, Children Now and the Born This Way Foundation. Teachers are on the frontlines of this crisis and should be provided with the training to properly identify and help students who are suffering. Youth Mental Health First Aid will teach:

- How to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance use disorders, including common psychiatric conditions and common substance use disorders, including opioids and alcohol
- Knowledge of local resources and services to share with students and others who may be

experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge

- How to safely de-escalate crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness
- How to reduce stigma and increase help-seeking behavior both in First-Aiders and those they help

## **SYSTEMS CHANGE CALENDAR**

- **Behavioral Wellness Commission:** The Behavioral Wellness Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Video conferencing is available at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic large conference room and the Santa Maria Clinic Conference Room. Questions: Karen Campos, [kcampos@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kcampos@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **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: Dalila Brown, [dbrown@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dbrown@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Lompoc Regional Partnership Meeting:** Meetings occur every other month on the third Tuesday at 301 N. R Street. Questions: Anthony Hollenback, [ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Santa Barbara Adult Regional Partnership:** meets every 3rd Monday of the month from 10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Veronica Heinzelmann, [vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Santa Barbara Children’s Regional Partnership:** 3th Thursday of the month from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic, large conference room. Questions: Veronica Heinzelmann, [vheinzelmann@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:vheinzelmann@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: Shana Burns at [sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sburns@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: Elodie Patarias, [epatari@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:epatari@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or Geoff Bernard, [gbernard@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:gbernard@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@sbcbwell.org](mailto:lazeitz@sbcbwell.org)
- **The Cultural Competency and Diversity Action Team (CCDAT)** meets the second Friday of each month, 9:30-11:00 am, Locations: Santa Barbara Children’s Clinic Large Conference Room 119, Santa Maria Annex and Lompoc B St. Contact Maria Arteaga at 805-681-5208 or [marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or Anthony Hollenback at 805-737-6610 or [ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ahollenback@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

- **The Peer Action Team** meets the second Thursday of the Month from 2 – 4:00 pm. Locations: Behavioral Wellness Santa Barbara Conference Room 261, Lompoc Children’s New Port Room the Santa Maria Annex Room via videoconference. Contact Maria Arteaga at 805-681-5208 or [marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:marteaga@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **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@sbcwell.org](mailto:jwinckler@sbcwell.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 Shana Burns at [sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sburns@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
- **Forensic Action Team** will be meeting every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 2:00 – 3:30. The meeting will be held at the Behavioral Wellness Children’s Mental Health Services building, room 119, located at 429 N. San Antonio Rd in Santa Barbara. Anyone wishing to join by videoconference or have questions may contact John Lewis at [jolewis@sbcwell.org](mailto:jolewis@sbcwell.org)