

2020-2023 Mental Health Services Planning Status Update for Behavioral Wellness Commission

MHSA PLANNING PROCESS:

Beginning in July 2019, the Department commenced a robust MHSA Planning process for the new FY 2020-2023 Three-Year Plan. The Behavioral Wellness Commission supported creation of a planning group made of Commissioners, Department staff, Access Ambassadors, Peers, Family members, and Youth in the community.

- Three youth served as MHSA interns in development of the plan including assisting with communication ideas, drafting the plan, coordinating stakeholder meetings, and hosting Youth events.
- Additionally, the Planning group held over 25 meetings throughout the County at new venues such as the Santa Maria Library and at Lompoc schools, in three languages, and marketed the public events on a variety of social media platforms.
- The support from the community was overwhelmingly positive and feedback was received in various formats such as surveys, comment cards, photos, poems, and painted art.

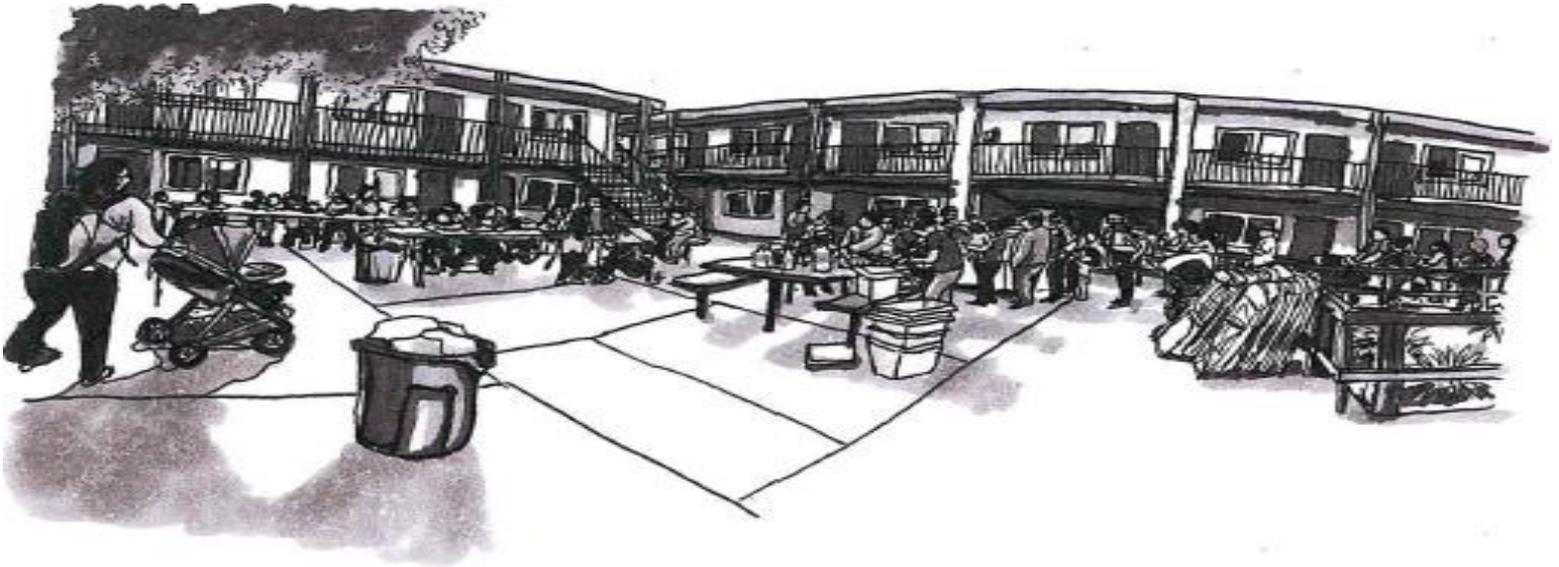


Illustration above of Community session hosted for farm workers with over 200 in attendance

Illustration below of Tri-Lingual Session at the Santa Maria Library for Consumers and Family members



MHSA BUDGET AND COVID:

Budget Strategy Prior to COVID:

- The Department has continued to focus on the most prudent ways to deal with limited fiscal growth. Due to the initiation of mandatory contributions for the new MHSA No Place Like Home (NPLH) initiative passed by California voters in November 2018, continued focus on refining and augmenting existing programs while limiting new programs is the key fiscal strategy for continuance of all operations.

COVID Budget Impacts and MHSA Programming:

- As the planning group began to draft the Three-Year Plan in March 2020 including development of a variety of new initiatives or intent to apply for grant opportunities, COVID-19 rapidly changed our way of being. At time of publication, the Department maintains essential Behavioral Health services with telehealth, reduced on-site locations, and expanded outreach coordination in the community as many are in isolation.
- As a result, the Draft plan will include the anticipated budget before COVID-19 impacts are considered and the Department intends to modify and reissue program plans with significant changes in the upcoming year as necessary. Although MHSA funding will be dramatically impacted as tax revenues are anticipated to decline, many of these impacts are unknown at time of plan posting.
- Department communicated with DHCS, CBHDA, and other Counties regarding planning and reporting deadlines and MHSA budget impacts. At this time, many counties experiencing limited capacity for planning, concerns of true public process, budget uncertainty, and limited Board of Supervisor meetings. Santa Barbara indicated they would attempt to complete by August 31, 2020, but will not be updating Plan with all budget impacts due to many unknowns (which Director and CFO will review in Budget presentation).

Peer Art in Upcoming Plan:



I created "Hope" in 2018 as a response to the Thomas Fire and mudslides in Montecito. I wanted my painting to help the people who saw it to feel hopeful for the future. I decided to make the letters big enough so that I could put an image inside each letter. For the first three images I chose plants native to this area: palm trees, a sunflower, and a bird of paradise. For the last image I chose white candles to remember those we have lost. The white candles can also symbolize healing and new beginnings. I chose to make the background different shades of blue, colors that reminded me of the ocean. I think we need hope again during the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic so this painting will resonate even more now. – Bridget Hochman

COMPLETED INITIATIVES FROM 2017-2020 PLAN THAT ARE COMPLETED AND CONTINUING:

- Expansion of outreach and linkage services to those experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County,
- Establishing level of care tools to help transition consumers within the continuum of care,
- Starting Medication Support services at each of the Recovery Learning Centers; and
- Implementing the County's first Transitional Age Youth focused Full Service Partnership programs in each region.

KEY PROPOSALS IN UPCOMING DRAFT THREE YEAR PLAN:

Based on input received during the 2020-2023 three-year planning process, the Department has four key proposals which include:

1. Implementation of expanded Youth-Focused Care and Youth-Driven Initiatives,
2. Increased utilization of Peer Services and integration of Peer Philosophies in the Department,
3. Expansion of Housing Developments and Support Services for those experiencing Homelessness; and
4. Integrating Whole Person Care practices throughout Outpatient programming.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Finalize Draft Plan by end of May 2020,
2. Post draft plan for 30 days during June 2020,
3. Host Behavioral Wellness Hearing in July 2020,
4. Receive Board of Supervisor approval and send to State in August 2020; and
5. Draft significant program changes as a result of known Budget changes in Fall, this may require special posting and hearing protocols based on State guidance.

