

# Summary

## Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

November 16, 2017  
9:00am  
Mental Health Facility  
1137 B Street, Merced

### Present:

Nancy Reding, Fernando Granados, Gary Brizzee, Brenda Geary, Monica Adrian, Iris N. Mojica, Caitlin Haygood, Alfred Rivera, Sharon Mendonca, Myisha Reed, Hortencia Silva, Irvin Guzman Gutierrez, Amalia Madrigal-Hernandez, Rhonda Prater, Cindy Mattox, Anna Santos, Rebecca McMullen, Vong Chang, Vince Ramos, Paul Thao, Griselda Vazquez, Chris Bobbitt, Tabatha Haywood, Ruben Chavez, Sharon Jones, Andrea Tovar

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

#### I. Call to Order / Roll Call

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for October 19, 2017 was motioned/seconded (Fernando Granados/Nancy Reding) and carried.

#### III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Iris N. Mojica Tatum of the Merced County Behavioral Health Board stated that the contact list is updated when everyone signs in.

#### IV. Notice to the Public

Nancy Reding, Community Member, informed the council that on December 7, 2017 there is a scheduled Journey for Justice Human Rights event at the United Methodist at 5pm. At this time, no flyer is available. Chief Gary Breeze, of Los Banos Police Department, informed the council that the *Westside Organizations Working Together to Help the Community* event is scheduled for December 6, 2017 from 9am to 1:30 pm at the Los Banos Community Center in Los Banos. He gave a brief overview of the purpose of the event. He also shared that he is currently participating in a can food drive for the community of Los Banos, which allows the males within the police department to grow out their beards for 50 cans a month for the months of November and December. Nancy also shared that she is involved in a Scarf-Raiser and is currently accepting scarves to distribute to those in need.

#### V. Chair's Report

Iris N. Mojica informed the council that members from the LGBTQ community were present during a recent Behavioral Health Board meeting and she was appreciative of their participation. She stated that they gave comments during the meeting and that she had asked in what way assistance could be offered. A rich discussion was held.

#### VI. Director's Report

Director Yvonnia Brown unavailable to attend, Sharon Mendonca, Assistance Director gave report. Sharon Mendonca stated that the appraisal for the B Street location was received at \$1,080,000. Sharon Mendonca gave a brief overview of AB72, a planning and zoning law, which both the County and City of Merced are currently reviewing. Sharon Mendonca stated that the City and County are currently looking at the possibility of permanent supportive housing of 120-units on the B Street location, 30 of those units would be dedicated to the SMI population. Discussion is currently taking place on how those plans would work occurring to all the various assembly and senate bills. *No Place like Home* is currently tied up within the court system and may move forward next fall. Sharon Mendonca reported that *No Place Like Home* Technological Assistance fund of \$100,000 has been received.

## **VII. Discussion on PEI funds**

Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator, reminded the group of a past discussion in regards to the proposal of using PEI funds at the local level opposed to state level towards CalMHSA. At a recent public hearing the Behavioral Health Board agreed to accept the recommendation that the funds be used at the local level. Sharon Jones suggested placing a future agenda item specifically for the purpose of brain-storming ideas to utilize the funds at the local level. She also stated that at the public hearing the MHSA Three-Year Expenditure plan was advised to move forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval which should occur on December 12, 2017. Deadline for getting the report to state is December 31, 2017. Any actions or determinations on the funds that have been advised to be used to the local level would have to be clarified in another program update.

## **VIII. Development of Suicide Prevention Initiative**

Sharon Jones informed the council that a Suicide Prevention initiative is scheduled for the month of January. The purpose of the initiative is to increase awareness and education in regards to suicide prevention for all ages. It is currently in draft form and will be presented to Director Brown soon. This initiative should run similar to the Ending the Stigma initiative. Sharon gave a brief overview of the recent UC Merced Ending the Stigma event.

## **IX. Update ISN**

Sharon Jones informed the council that during the public hearing additional information was requested regarding the recently approved innovation plan, the Innovative Strategist Network. Sharon shared with the council the PowerPoint she presented to the OAC. She covered the intentions of the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN), covered project overview, the ABC Framework Model, implementation of ISN, areas of innovation focus, service needs, steps to transformational change, how is the ISN innovative, the community planning process, ISN customer profile, the ISN team, How will service flow, budget and time period. Total 5-year funding, learning objectives, the Transformational Outcomes, ISN success and sustainability was also covered in the presentation. Sharon also stated the group that currently an implementation plan is being worked on. Sharon reported that the first-round draft has been created and has been sent out to the work group members, including the Director. Nancy Reding asked if the ISN would be funded by new or redirected funds. Sharon Jones stated that the funds come from Innovative MHSA funding; she also gave a brief description of where all MHSA fundings goes towards. Nancy Reding asked if Sharon Jones could elaborate on policy limitations; Sharon explained that policy limitation would be when an individual has private insurance but they are in need of an FSP, so one must be a client of BHRS with severe mental illness to access the FSP, a person may be in need of care but the system flow does not support what they need. Vince Ramos stated that BHRS already has this program. Vince Ramos asked why the program is being established, too many coordinators and not enough counselors. Sharon stated that what Vince Ramos stated was true, that there are various programs under MHSA and BHRS system but unfortunately for this community, it is not enough, there are still people unserved and underserved. Sharon stated that the ISN will be tested out to see if it will help with the community needs. Vince Ramos stated that someone is not doing their job, there are too many managers and supervisors but not enough counselors or social workers. Sharon Jones stated that through the ISN, seven direct service providers will be able to assist the community. Iris stated that at the most recent Behavioral Health Board meeting groups had identified gaps and that ISN could address those gaps within the system. Sharon stated that the next presentation will be on the implementation of ISN. The group discussed the ISN further.

## **X. Possibilities and Success Stories**

Rhonda Prater stated that she enjoyed the presentation and thanked MHSA for the services that are currently being provided. Public shared her personal success story of recovery with the council.

## **XI. Next Steps**

Discussion on PEI funding at the local level for January.

## **XII. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 1045am

