

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council Special Meeting

October 24, 2019

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
301 East 13th Street, Merced

Present:

Sharon Jones, Dwayne Kawakami, Rebecca McMullen, Ruben Chavez, Patti Kishi, Jenna Nunes, Ruby Awesome, Anthony Vieira, James Henderson, Maika Yang, Zachery Coston, Anna Santos, Griselda Vazquez, Jen Ramos, Clovia Barboza, Maria Orozco, Caitlin Haygood, Cindy Mattox

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Notice to the Public

Sharon Jones introduced and welcomed the new MHSA team member, Clovia Barboza.

III. Review MHSA Annual Update FY 2019/2020

Sharon presented a PowerPoint on the draft annual update for fiscal year 2019 /2020. The presentation provided information on Mental Health Services Act's 5 essential elements, 5 main components, CSS full service Partnerships, general system development programs with approved funding amounts, program estimate expenditures, prevention and early intervention programs, innovation, workforce, education and training (WET), and stigma discrimination reduction and suicide prevention programs. Cindy clarified that the funding amounts on the PowerPoint are split and need to be added together for the full amount; the amounts shown are only estimates based on the percentages. The MHSA funding summary pages in the annual update include the split amounts but the total amounts are on the actual page.

Sharon also presented the proposed changes for fiscal year 2019 /2020. The biggest change would be the development of a wellness and recovery team, to establish a new case management team under CSS. This would be to provide a community wide care coordination and recovery management to individuals who are living with severe mental illness or severe emotional disturbance, as well as provide transportation services to clients in out of county placements. Other proposals include changing the name Mental Health Adult Drug Court to Adult Behavioral Health Court, update program services of the Juvenile Behavioral Health Court to improve after care and engagement services, move one full time CSS clinician to COPE Central Intake to improve access to services and timely evaluations, capacity building LGBTQ supportive services to update the funding from \$20,000 to \$30,000, an approved action of E-learning to increase the number of staff user seats, Livingston Clinic relocation project, paint and revitalize the CUBE TAY wellness center, update technological funding projects for electronic health record support, add Service Integration to the name of the ISN program, and utilize unspent funds in Mental Health Services to hire peer support specialists for ISN. Sharon also briefly explained about the estimated local prudent reserve balance.

Ruben Chavez, Livingston Police Officer, asked Sharon about increased funding. Sharon explained that the state is thinking about having regional partnerships with other counties for certain projects as well as possibly taking money off the top of MHSA for designated areas. Sharon shared that Yvonnia was at the last Ongoing Planning Council meeting and talked about the possibility of MHSA being on the ballot again. Sharon will be having a standing item on the agenda for the next Ongoing Planning Council meeting to talk about funding changes and the impact on the community. Sharon briefly mentioned the proposed changes in MHSA funding. Sharon added that all approved programs have to abide by the essential elements and be funded under one of those components. Proposals usually come from vested stakeholders and Sharon tries to see what is needed within

the service delivery system to health. Often times one of the ongoing situations in Merced County, is access to care and professional shortage of practitioners. Sharon stated that they are looking at ways to improve the service delivery system, One way that it is improving is through the Innovative Strategies Network because it has a nurse, a clinician, a mental health worker, peer support, and family support; the ISN team tries to get back to the individual within 24 hours. Sharon added that they are trying to build up the clinical practitioners' toolkit, to ensure adequate training. Zachery Coston, with LGBTQ+ Alliance, asked about the real amounts of funding in the proposals. Sharon responded that they are proposed until the board of supervisors signs off on them and explained the approval process. The public hearing will be on December 3, 2019 and the board of supervisors meeting will be in January. An attendee asked about the long term plan. The long term plan is to sustain the funding. Sharon explained that funding for ISN has already been approved and the state is allowing the funding to be maximized. Sharon noted that she looks for a contingency plan and sustainability so it would probably go under realignment or another funding.

Sharon reminded everyone that they are looking at ongoing system improvements and ways to help the community. Most recently, for the last 11 years, Sharon has been supervised by the behavioral health director, and was recently switched under the clinical assistant director. Sharon is looking to make some healthy strides transforming the system even further with MHSA and impacting the clinical team to reduce some of the stigma towards the department. She added that family advocacy is also part of the warm line to help families navigate the system. James Henderson, with Golden Valley Health Center, asked about the approval process. Sharon explained that for the case management team it will go through the county RFP process. For the warm line, it is just an expansion or enhancement of an already approved program, so the requirements for that will be training peers and strategically placing them within our service delivery system. The group also discussed 0-5 children programs, school-based services, and the referral process for each of them. Some of those programs included Strengthening Families, Children's System of Care, Aspiranet, and ISN-Youth. Anna Santos, with the Transition to Independence Process program, asked if there has been a conversation about relocating the CUBE to a more centralized area, as there has been stigma associated with the location. Sharon explained that resources do not allow for that. The attempt is to make it more user-friendly and to have the conversation to reduce stigma. Anna shared that they have the youth committee at the CUBE and tried to get a group of youth for that purpose; there have been conversations about youth who do not want to go to the CUBE due to the location. Ruby Awesome suggested coordinating with Sharon to have a focus group so that Sharon can speak to the youth directly regarding this issue and provide feedback. Sharon mentioned the possibility of having Jennifer Jones, the Community Enrichment Director, come to one of the next meetings to talk about the current strategies for the CUBE; Sharon asked that the CUBE also be added to the list of presenters. Sharon mentioned that the Youth Leadership Institute will present their strategies, such as pronoun trainings, at one of the Ongoing Planning Council meetings. Merced Lao family has started the work at the Hmong New Year and will be sharing information on LGBTQ+; information has been shared with the Hmong leaders. Griselda Vazquez asked about the release of RFP to re-apply for funding for Livingston Community Health. Ruby noted that this would be after the holidays and further discussed the application process with Griselda.

IV. Action Items :Consensus for Behavioral Health Board

The committee was all in favor of moving the MHSA annual update for fiscal year 2019-2020 to the Behavioral Health Board. Sharon noted that there will still be time to provide additional feedback. Cindy added that the annual update will be posted on the Merced County website for the 30 day public review. A comment form will be available as well.

V. Next Steps

Everyone is invited to the public hearing with the Behavioral Health Board on December 3rd at 5:30pm to further discuss the annual update draft plan. By consensus, MHSA will move the annual update draft to the behavioral health board and will post it tomorrow for further review. Sharon will keep everyone posted on any changes with MHSA and it will be a standing item on each additional Ongoing Planning Council agenda.

VI. Adjourned

The adjournment of the meeting at 9:46 am was motioned/seconded (Jen Ramos/Anna Santos).