

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

June 23, 2022
9:00am – 10:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Sharon Jones, Fernando Granados, Derric Brown, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Jaz Chima, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Maria Colomer, Melyssa Hintz, Manjit Kaur, Monica Mata, Cindy Mattox, Jenna Nunes, Maria Ocegueda, Jesse Ornelas, Maria Orozco, Sandra Sandoval, Brian Sterkeson, Ye Thao, Cari Urquiza, Katalina Zambrano

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for May 26, 2022 was motioned /seconded (Jose Chavez-Diaz /Jenna Nunes) and carried.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Sharon Jones encouraged all attendees to confirm their attendance via chat or by emailing Maria Orozco.

IV. Notice to the Public

V. Chair's Report

No report. Fernando Granados, chair, only noted that they need to look to look for a co-chair for the committee. Sharon Jones agreed and stated that they will be working on that by the next meeting.

VI. BHRS Report

Manjit Kaur, Fiscal Manager with BHRS, mentions that she was asked by Sharon Mendonca to share about MHSA revenue projections for the next few years. Manjit took a look at what was done in 2021 and how they are doing in 2021-2022 – then she took Michael Guise's presentation, who is the consultant at the state level and also consults with counties and always presents his budget estimates for the future years. Manjit took his presentation on MHSA revenue projections. She noted that he normally uses statewide estimates for each component funding, so Manjit took statewide revenue and then took a percentage of how his revenue is moving from year to year; our revenue would accordingly move up or down, depending on how much revenue the state is earning. Basically, in that projection, Manjit came to conclusion that from 2021 to this year 2022, our revenue is going to go up very slightly but it's very close to last year's revenue. 2022-2023 and on, there's a very slight change but it's a pretty status quo, with the exception of maybe \$10,000 more next year compared to this year. For 2024-2025, he is projecting the revenue is going to go down by 7 percent. Manjit made a projection as 2025-2026 was not on this projection list. She noted that even if they don't go down, if they stay status quo, revenue over the next few years is projected to be a little bit low between 5 percent to 10 percent down from where we are today. For next year, they budgeted status COVID, what they have this year. If anyone has any questions and would like for Manjit to share the workbook that she worked on to come up with these projections and these numbers, she can do so, and then Sharon Jones can share with everyone. Manjit added that basically, it's a status quo, there's not a whole lot of change and in future years it's going down between 5 and 10 percent.

Sharon Jones said that she will have Maria Orozco send out the workbook. Sharon asked Manjit if she could tell them roughly how much MHSA revenue is coming in estimated to come in each year and what it will drop to with the 5 or 7 percent. Manjit shared that in 2021 they got 21.2 million and this year they would go to 22.6 million – the same would stay in next year and the year after it goes slightly up. From then on it goes 7 percent down to 24.5 and then it stays status quo for 2025-2025.

Sharon Jones also asked how much are we expending each year in regards to how much we're receiving. Manjit noted that she doesn't have the expense report with her at this time. In her projections she doesn't know the money that they would be moving to capital facilities and vet funds in 2023-2024 moving forward, because she was able to pull the money they are projecting to

move to capital facilities and vet funds in 2022-2023 from the MHSA Annual Update. Going forward Manjit doesn't have those numbers in her projection. At this moment in time, they are not facing any reversion issues.

Fernando Granados asked Manjit if that was based on her projections because he was looking at the Governor's projection for the 2021 year for MHSA, and it's 21,548,000. For 2022-2023, it jumps almost by 4 million to 25,790,000. He noted that Manjit earlier said that she develops her own projections, and asked how she developed those. Manjit explained that her projections are based on Michael Guise's projections – he works with the state and the counties as fiscal consultant and he came up with his projections. Manjit has about 4 million dollars going up in fiscal year 2023-2024, however his projections are from March and she was not able to get any of the latest projections after March. She added that as they are going through the economy slowing down a little, for safety sake they would budget status quo; if they get a little bit of revenue that's not going to hurt next year. After that, his projection shows that it's going down from 5 to 10 percent. Manjit said that she took Michael's projections at the statewide level, and then how his revenue is moving from year to year up or down, she is just taking the same percentage and moving their revenue up or down based on what he is projecting at the state level. Fernando noted that he is also looking back at what it was back in 2019-2020 and where we're at today. Fernando is interested to see how and what they have in the prudent reserve at the county level with MHSA funding, but he is more interested in the actual budget for the county of the funding for MHSA versus what the projections might be. Manjit said that as for how actual budgets go, they are directed by the CEO's office to keep their budgets status quo. Even if they try to keep their budgets status quo, it's still going to go up a little bit with the inflation going up, salary increases, and everything. Manjit's suggestion is to not pound on a huge revenue increase or program expansion because down the road, if he's saying that down the road we will have some decrease in revenue, she doesn't know if there is talk about recession or not, so even if they try to keep the programs up to the level that they are, it's going to cost them more. Manjit understands that from previous years we have been up, but in the last couple of years revenue has gone up for everybody because of the economy. She said that they are still budgeting 22 million dollars for next year. Fernando added that the issue for him is that revenues have not gone up for programs; programs have been functioning with the same budget for years. He said yes, revenues might have gone up but programs developed from MHSA have not seen that revenue increase. They have been status quo functioning with the same budget for the past 5, if not more years. When they start talking about salary increases and all that, Fernando wonders whose salary increases because programs have not seen any increases in funding. They have seen new programs, but for the programs that have been there 5+ years, they have not seen any increases when it comes to the revenue. Manjit said they can share an MHSA revenue and expense report that they share with the state to show where they are spending money because it's consistently reported in the MHSA plan. Manjit shared that they tell the state every year how much money they're spending in each program if that would help but when talking about salary increases, there's not a whole lot. Going forward, based on inflation, even the internal MHSA programs and staff that we have, our county is going through some union negotiations and they don't know what the outcome is going to be, but there is a chance that other programs that we've had some expansion in MHSA programs. If they want to see specifically what program is spending how much over the last few years, she can share the revenue and expense report. Sharon Jones noted that the MHSA revenue and expenditure report is usually posted on the Merced County official website – it is a state requirement to post it there. In regards to the prudent reserve, Sharon explained that they follow a state calculation for the prudent reserve. She thinks right now it's a little over 3 million dollars. They have a formula that they have to follow for the state for the prudent reserve. It seems as though a larger conversation with higher leadership needs to occur in regards to program needs and staffing. Sharon wanted to say that because Fernando was bringing up concerns in regards to programs possibly needing additional support and care, but that would probably require a higher-level conversation here at our meeting. Sharon will follow up with leadership on how to address that.

Sharon noted that one of the next steps will be to send out the report that Manjit talked about. Any questions can be sent to her and she will try to answer them by the next meeting that way everyone gets the same answers is informed.

VII. Presentation on Strengthening Families Program

Sharon Jones presented a Power Point Presentation on the Prevention and Early Intervention Strengthening Families program. She shared that the MHSA team consists of herself (MHSA Coordinator), Cindy Mattox (Staff Services Analyst), Melyssa Hintz (Quality Assurance Specialist), and Maria Orozco (Office Assistant), as well as Ayesha Hunter (Program Manager). Sharon also has the oversight of the Prevention and Early Intervention Strengthening Families program. She noted that Strengthening Families is about preventative services and the team that operates as caring adults – their official job title is Family & Community Development Partners and are also known as Strengthening Families partners. The goal is to hire Strengthening Families partners with lived experience in the targeted unserved and underserved communities. The Power Point presentation included information on the Strengthening Families background, services provided by Strengthening Families partners, services flow chart, 2020-2021 data of unduplicated Sf clients & Outreach and Engagement, 2020-2021 SMART goals and outcomes, 2020-2021

impact of COVID, recovery arts activities and Zoom activities, about each partner and services provided to their community, outreach events, and the cost of program services for the fiscal year.

Jose Chavez-Diaz, Golden Valley Health Centers, asked Sharon if she could share an example of early intervention that was provided. Sharon explained that prevention can be information on depression, anxiety, ADHD, or how to establish coping skills. Early intervention is like the depression has started and it's getting a little bit worse so they may help link them to a clinician for a brief session, help them go to their primary care doctor before an evaluation to see if they need medication, or come up with a plan to help reduce their symptoms of depression. She clarified that they are not clinicians but they can come up with a plan and strategies to reduce those contributory factors before they inflate and get worse.

Katalina Zambrano, LGBTQ Collaborative, asked if they are also providing resources for LGBT individuals in family settings whether it be youth or LGBT parents – are they able to access any of this or are they needing resources so that they could provide that for them? Sharon explained that they provide a lot of support for LGBTQ+. This program is very inclusive. The Strengthening Families team is doing a lot of work around gender and helping in affirming gender identity with young people, supporting them when their stressors increase up onto having the conversations with their families as appropriate to try to release their stress. Katalina asked if that is being done with clinicians or community organizations. Sharon said that it is being done within this particular program where a lot of it comes up in the schools; students are having increased stressors, not feeling heard, self-esteem is low, and getting depressed. A referral will go to a community development partner and then they try to provide that youth some support, linkages, and education, as appropriate for them and the family.

VIII. COVID Impact on MHSA Program

Sharon stated her interest in a conversation regarding the impact of COVID-19 to programs because COVID-19 is still with us and many people think it's not because there seems not to be much conversation about it.

Jose Chavez-Diaz shared that some of the impacts that Golden Valley Health Centers has with our Latino population is that they work a lot with the migrant camps and this is the season that they work a lot with them. They arrived on June 17th and they went into their homes on June 20th so they are all there right now. The obstacle with COVID-19 is that they still have to abide by COVID-19 CDC guidelines and Golden Valley is not given much opportunity to go in the migrant camp or their facilities. What they usually do is groups and presentations. They are trying to offer Zoom but a lot of them, especially the migrant community that comes from other states, Mexico, and other parts of the country, probably don't have access to laptops. He noted that this is still a concern for their program because this is the season that they do a lot of engagement with the Latino population. Jose said that they will continue trying to reach out to the managers and see when they can go out there and do their outreach. They have allowed Golden Valley to do tabling but they're not getting the community members as they used to before. Jose explained how that is still a big obstacle for them. A lot think that COVID-19 is slowing down the outreach process but in their case, it's slowing down to not be able to do as much as they used to do before in 2019.

IX. Discussion of Upcoming Program Adaptability

Sharon Jones asked Jose Chavez-Diaz how they have adapted their program so that they could still serve and help out. Jose shared that one of the big adaptations when it comes to presentations, is gathering all of their numbers. They are still continuing to offer Zoom presentations and are still going out there and reminding them that they could still do indoor presentations and tabling but they have to follow the CDC guidelines of 6 feet distance. He noted that it's not as productive as before because again they're not getting the number of members that they usually expected before 2019. They are adapting going out there giving the quality even if they have 3 people or 1 person for 1 presentation because that person is there so they will give that person the quality presentation and outreach information and resources. Their adaptation is the numbers don't matter as much right now as before 2019. They are doing what they can with what they have following the CDC guidelines – they are a health center so they are abiding to more CDC guidelines because they have to wear masks everywhere they go. He explained that that is why he is wearing his – if they are in their office. He highlighted that they continue to go out there and remembering that 1 person counts versus 5 or 10 people. They are offering their services to as many Latinos as well as other populations – communities here in Merced County. That's what they will continue doing and that great feeling to be out there providing the services that they have.

X. MHSA Annual Update Approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 7, 2022

Sharon informed that the Annual Update was approved on June 7, 2022 by the Merced County Board of Supervisors. It had already gone through the Public Hearing at the Behavioral Health Board and was approved by our Board of Supervisors. She explained that means that after the approval of the Board of Supervisors, we have 30 days to get it to the state. It was required to get it to the state on June 30th and Cindy Mattox, our analyst, has already submitted it to the state. Shortly, they will take a moment to breathe for a little bit and then they will move into another 3-year plan. Now Sharon will be sending an email to every program where there is a change and making them aware of it. Sharon added that they will be adding Care Court to the Adult

Behavioral Health Court. She also mentioned that the transitional youth wellness center, The Cube, will be adding a BHRS program manager. According to the changes, the age group for The Cube will be changed to ages 16-21. If the person is over 21 they will go to the adult wellness center. Also, for their CARE FSP, Turning Point, there will be increased funding with the FSP for 1 full-time mental health clinician and a psychiatrist. There will be a new Justice and Community Integration Housing program that was approved under this plan as well, and there are many others. Sharon will have Maria Orozco, the point person, send this out. In addition, a youth and family grief and trauma program will be developed as a result of this approved annual update.

XI. Continuous System Improvements

Sharon mentioned that they are looking at ways for continuous system improvements and culturally responsive actions as a part of improvements. Also, moving on to a dialogue about trauma-informed care with all of the critical incidents occurring throughout the United States where families are impacted. If individuals are going to be coming in and accessing services, she said we will have to be trauma-informed so that we do not re-victimize. Sharon facilitated a trauma-informed care training on Tuesday. As the MHSA Coordinator, and the person that provides trainings, she will be building up that platform a little more. Katalina Zambrano asked Sharon if next time that she has that training if there is a way that they can register for that. Sharon noted that she will be repeating the training – there will be another one shortly. Sharon will make sure that Katalina receives the notification.

XII. Administrative Updates and Changes

Sharon Jones said that one big thing is the new Winton clinic that Sharon Mendonca talked about last time is now open several days. Maybe Sharon will have someone come and talk about the Winton clinic next time.

XIII. Announcements

Jose Chavez-Diaz announced that Golden Valley Health Centers is having a COVID-19 vaccine event on Saturday at the Merced flea market, if anybody needs any.

Jesse Ornelas announced that Youth Leadership Institute is partnering with the Pride Center for an LGBTQ+ Education Workshop this Friday at 5:00pm, open to the public. Jose Chavez-Diaz asked if it is going to be like a resource fair. Jesse clarified that it's a workshop to provide education on gender identity, how to better work in relationship with young people who identify, etc. Jose asked about the time and location. Jesse said it will be a 90 minute to 2-hour workshop at the Pride Center at the MAC.

Jaz Chima, Merced County Adult and Aging Branch, shared that they recently held an Elder Abuse Awareness function at the Merced Senior Center. It turned out nice – they had not done one in about 2-3 years and look forward to continuing those efforts. In regards to the impact that COVID-19 had on their programs, Jaz stated that one program that was impacted was the Home - Delivered Meals and the Congregate Nutrition Program. The Congregate Nutrition Program is a program where Seniors can go to a 1 of the 7 meal sites throughout the county and enjoy socialization and a noon time meal. During COVID-19 they had to move to a take-out type model, and now they are back up and running and have more and more people like they had in the past. They have seen an incredible increase in their home-delivered program and they continue to see that kind of increase. Thankfully, with some of the funding that federal government has provided through stimulus and other venues, they are currently trying to meet that need, but they don't see that going back to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Ye Thao, Merced Lao Family, also shared via chat that they have a COVID-19 mobile Vaccination clinic on Saturday June 25th, from 9:00am to 3:00pm as well. It is open to the public and they will have a language translation/interpreter.

XIV. Possibilities and Success Stories

Sharon Jones shared a success story from the older adult PEARLS program. Behavioral Health added a prevention clinician under Sharon's supervision, that provides support to the PEARLS program and the Older Adults System of Care program. The clinician was working with a gentleman who had hope for many years – he couldn't walk or move his arms. His hope was that if he got physical therapy, he knew that there would be a change. Advocacy helped and he was able to get a physical therapist. It was shared that for the first time he was starting to move his arm a little bit. Sharon thought it was wonderful holding on to hope like that and finally receiving the proper advocacy to receive his physical therapist.

XV. Next Steps

The next Ongoing Planning Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2022 – the meetings are recorded. The MHSA revenue and expenditure report discussed by Manjit Kaur will be sent to the council.

XVI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:57am.