

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

October 17, 2019

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department

301 East 13th Street, Merced

Present:

Fernando Granados, Jenna Nunes, Marilyn Mochel, Rebecca McMullen, Jessica Wheeler, Robert Hubbard, Maria Orozco, Caitlin Haygood, Chris Bobbitt, Sandra Sandoval, Mai Ka Yang, Tatiana Vizcaino, Toven Saetern, Heydi Herrera, Cindy Mattox, Yvonnia Brown, Richard Luvian, Griselda Vazquez, Jen Ramos, Belle Vallador

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for October 17, 2019 was motioned/seconded (Mai Ka Yang /Jessica Wheeler) and carried.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Fernando Granados, Chair, encouraged all attendees to sign in to maintain an updated contact list.

IV. Notice to the Public

Cindy Mattox informed that a stakeholder's interest column has been added to the sign in sheet and will be recorded in the annual update. The primary stakeholder interest should be selected if there are multiple. Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator, added that tent cards will be available with the primary stakeholder interest at some point moving forward.

V. Chair's Report

No report.

VI. Director's Report

Yvonnia Brown, Director of BHRS, reported that BHRS is in the process of opening a Crisis Stabilization Unit with a 4 bed facility for children, hopefully by the beginning of January 2020. This will be at the old CSU location, next to Marie Green. Families will now be able to call the CSU directly if a child is in crisis, versus having to go to the emergency department, the current default. Even though this is a 4 bed facility, it leads to help kids move out of the emergency department or prevent them from going there for crisis intervention services. Yvonnia also reported that the adult Crisis Stabilization Unit was expanded, is now open, and operating. It is located next door to Marie Green at the old Wellness Center and has 4 beds at the moment due to staffing, but has the capacity of 8 beds. The CSU has a 51/50 side, as well as walk-in services at the CSU Urgent Center where individuals in crisis can be assessed by a clinician instead of going to the emergency department. Marilyn Mochel asked if adult individuals can go to the CSU for an assessment instead of having to call the police. Yvonnia responded that if a family member has someone in crisis, they can be taken to the crisis center. At that time, the worker will do an assessment to determine if the individual needs to be medically cleared, needs to go through the screening process or is a danger to themselves or others. Marilyn stated that it seems as though families need more assistance in getting an individual to a crisis center. She added that a community response is needed to prevent individuals in crisis from being put in jail. Yvonnia noted that many officers are understanding but may need to be trained and educated of when an individual needs to be taken to the emergency department or a crisis unit. Heydi Herrera shared Golden Valley Health Center's process for individuals in need of crisis services. She suggested requesting a 51/50 evaluation when contacting law enforcement. Heydi noted that Merced law enforcement has been very helpful and have addressed the issues well.

Yvonna informed the council that Proposition 63, which funds all of the Mental Health Services Act programs, may be re-opened and possibly be on the voting ballot in November 2020. She suggested having conversations regarding this topic as it may have implications on local county funding. One of the proposals on the ballot will be to redirect 20 percent of Mental Health Services Act funds to support jail services, meaning that 20% of funding will not be going to local county agencies. Yvonna gave a brief overview of the 4 proposals for existing funding that may be on the ballot. She shared a policy member's proposal to redirect 20 percent from PEI and 20 percent from CSS; this proposal may not pass. Yvonna stated that this is a time for the council to start thinking about their current programs, look at opportunities for future decisions and stay informed with anything in regards to the Mental Health Services Act. Marilyn stated that NAMI has never been an advocacy oriented organization in the county, but they now have the NAMI Smarts program. NAMI Smarts can work on community education and advocacy in collaboration with BHRS to fight any ballot measure if they are well informed. Yvonna noted that everyone needs to be informed, educated and thoughtful of any concerns. Yvonna will be meeting with state legislators, advocates and consultants on October 30th to further discuss this matter. Attendees were encouraged to search online for Governor Newsom or Steinberg's Institute for more information on the proposition and regionalization. Fernando Granados agreed it is important to be informed and educated about Proposition 63.

VII. Program Presentation: WECAN /Aspiranet

Rebecca McMullen, Core Program Director of Aspiranet, presented a PowerPoint and distributed print outs of the PowerPoint presentation to the council. The presentation provided information on the mission and vision, funding, program components, eligibility, program population, services provided, referrals, measures, SMART goals, outcomes for years 2018-2019, and success stories. The group discussed referral processes, eligibility for undocumented individuals, and the 30 day Crisis Stabilization Program services. Rebecca provided business cards with her contact information to council members for any further questions.

VIII. Annual Update FY 2019-2020

Sharon informed that they are working diligently on the annual update for fiscal year 2019-2020. The goal was to present it at today's meeting but information is still needed from various programs. Instead of having the draft presented at this meeting, a special Ongoing Planning Council meeting will take place next Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 9:00am to review the upcoming Annual Update and the proposals. The public hearing will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and the annual update would go to the Board of Supervisors in January 2020. All meeting documents will be posted 72 hours in advance. The special meeting will be to specifically review the draft annual update for fiscal year 2019-2020. The draft will be sent ahead of time, and council members were asked review it prior to the special meeting. Marilyn asked if stakeholder meetings are still being conducted. Sharon responded that the community planning process is continuing with focus groups, key informant interviews, and a World Café scheduled for November 19th to bring all of the feedback together and have a robust discussion. The annual update document needs to be posted for 30 days, which is why Sharon is proposing to review the draft next week; comments can still be received during the 30 days.

IX. Community Planning Process

Agenda item tabled.

X. MHSA Issue Resolution Process

Agenda item tabled.

XI. MHSA Needs Assessment

Agenda item tabled.

XII. Performance Outcomes

Agenda item tabled.

XIII. Possibilities and Success Stories

No possibilities or success stories.

XIV. Next Steps

Proposition 63 to be added as a standing agenda item. Presentation of the PEARLS program at the next Ongoing Planning Council meeting on November 21st. Fernando reminded everyone to be very diligent and keep presentations at 15 minutes. A special meeting is scheduled for the committee next Thursday, October 24th to discuss the annual update. The annual update draft will be sent to all and posted for the special meeting.

XV. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am