

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

March 25, 2021

9:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department
Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Fernando Granados, Sharon Jones, Monica Adrian, Joanna Castaneda, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Caitlin Haygood, Christopher Jensen, Jennifer Jones, Patti Kishi, Katilyn McIntire, Rebecca McMullen, Marilyn Mochel, Ismael Munoz, Julie Norton, Jenna Nunes, Maria Orozco, Rocio Ortega, Sally Ragonut, Nancy Reding, Jeff Sabean, Nai Saechao, Aracely Sanchez, Anna Santos, Griselda Vasquez, Bao Vang, Siouxouyee Vue, Jennifer Xiong

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for February 25, 2021 was motioned /seconded (Monica Adrian / Marilyn Mochel) and carried.

Fernando Granados noted that a correction needed to be made to the minutes under Possibilities and Success Stories: *promotor auto* should be *promotora*.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Fernando Granados, Chair, encouraged all attendees to confirm their attendance via chat or by emailing Maria Orozco.

IV. Notice to the Public

Jennifer Xiong, Hlub Hmong Center, invited everyone to join their virtual Healing Vigil on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM. The event will include information on Asian American stories and how to heal as a community together.

Rocio Ortega, Public Health Department, noted that she is covering for Sandra Sandoval. She wanted to promote their stress classes and will be forwarding their flyers for next month. The stress classes are twice a week in English and Spanish every single week.

Marilyn Mochel announced on behalf of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Merced County, that they will be having 3 youth events. The first one will be Tuesday, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM – she will be sending the flyer to Caitlin for distribution. This is in collaboration with an organization called Youth Era. They are known for their response to trauma at high schools, such as school shootings. They also have a curriculum that has been evaluated by Ostrich University. This is going to be an introduction to that curriculum with the idea that with assistance from the schools, there will be more options for youth to participate with the ultimate goal that they will be peer support people in their high schools.

V. Chair's Report

No Report. Fernando Granados hopes everyone is doing well.

VI. BHRS Report

Sharon reported that there are several projects that they are preparing for, which is CalAIM, coming down from the state – it is a whole restructuring of the system which is inclusive of evidence based practices and things of that nature so the conversation is happening about that and how to fulfill that requirement. She shared that the department received a planning grant for ACES Aware and also how we can implement Adverse Childhood Experiences screening throughout the system of care as well. She added that the department will be starting to meet face to face a bit more moving forward, still with the 6 feet distance and wearing a mask. Sharon noted that the CalAIM is going to be a huge endeavor and is going to be inclusive of the whole service delivery system; this is a state requirement.

Fernando asked if face to face means that clients will be coming in to the office now. Sharon thinks yes. They are looking at having clients come in with specific guidelines and protocols of safety but moving towards that. Also, with the Wellness Centers the department is looking at how individuals can come back to the Wellness Centers in a scale down fashion where everyone is safe. All

of this has to be approved by the Public Health Department, but those are the conversations that are happening as the department is trying to get back to face to face.

VII. Presentation on Merced College Psychosocial Rehabilitation Training Program

Terry Plett, with the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Project in Workforce, Education and Training (WET), shared that he has been with Merced College for about 9 years. They have been in partnership with BHRS for about 11 years. Terry presented a Power Point with information on the Business Resources Center location, classes and instructors. He also shared about the curriculum by California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA), as well as his experiences. In addition, information was included on: What is Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Psychosocial Rehabilitation Objectives, SMART Goals, Funding Amount, PSR Participants enrolled in online classes (Spring 2021), next steps, and student testimonies. For more information, Terry can be contacted via email or they can visit the website.

Sharon stated that she would like more people to participate and embrace the philosophy of the empowerment of the clients that we serve. She encouraged everyone, when the flyers come out, to please pass it on to individuals in the community who can connect with the business resource center for this great class. Terry added that it is a great class; it's fun, and it is informative. Everybody has the opportunity to contribute, and as they do that they help each other and help themselves.

VIII. MHSA Annual Update Community Planning Process Update

Sharon Jones informed that they are still in the community planning process for the annual update to the 3 year plan. They just completed the 3 year plan and now they have to do an annual update to have it submitted by June 30th. She noted that the first round of the draft is with the Behavioral Health director. The goal is to post the draft on April 1st to ensure the timeline. Sharon also shared that they had the most recent focus group yesterday which was very informative and very interesting in regards to our diverse cultural communities, and just the way services are offered in terms of time frames of services. They talked about healing circles, gifts versus baggage, trusted messengers, and about wisdom keepers in the community that bring forth healing, learning, and understanding – the focus groups are going very well. Sharon has noticed not as many attendees to the focus groups, but there are some very rich and meaningful conversations that are going forward.

The ultimate goal is to post it on April 1st. Everyone was encouraged to review it. The whole draft plan will be sent out to everyone, to all of the stakeholders. Sharon said they are looking to establish the Behavioral Health Board public hearing on May 4th at 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM, at the request of the Behavioral Health Board. They are moving forward with that and collecting feedback as usual; it seems to be going fairly well. At the public hearing, Sharon will be doing a Power Point presentation and bring everyone up to date on any changes that are moving forward in the plan, just for transparency. They are still in the evolution phase of moving toward getting everything approved and completed.

IX. BHRS Capacity Needs Assessment System Maps

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services is in the middle of a Capacity Needs Assessment. Sharon shared an example of the Children's System of Care map and provided a brief explanation. She mentioned that the map includes supportive programs as well. All of the system maps will be sent out to the group after the meeting: the Adults System of Care, Children's System of Care, and the Substance Use Division.

X. ACES Aware Network Integration Tool – Toxic Stress

In terms of ACES Aware and our planning grant. Sharon Jones stated that it has already been sent out to many people but the ACES Aware Integration Tool will be sent out for them to complete. In driving initiative on adverse childhood issues which lead to toxic stress and chronic disease, they want to really build a safety net in this community for screening and helping individuals and for developing trauma informed care. Sharon asked everyone to fill out the Integration Tool as well as they are trying to get as many people to fill it out. She shared that they are also in partnership with MCOE (Merced County Office of Education) which also received a planning grant so they are going to have to develop a clinical framework. Sharon will be launching several meetings to talk about how to set up a clinical framework to support mostly screenings for ACEs, how it can be infused into what is already being done, and how they can build curriculum for trauma informed care. Sharon said to speak to the fact that they are in step 1. She said that a section is available to add other notes.

XI. May is Mental Health Month

Sharon Jones would like the council to start thinking about how to honor May is Mental Health Month. She noted that usually there is a big recovery event. Even though COVID is kind of going down a little bit, it is still not the time to have a huge public event where over 100 to 200 people are invited. Sharon shared that the banner will be placed over at G street for the awareness of mental health.

XII. Workforce Training

In terms of workforce, training, and education, Jennifer Johnson who is a 10 year professor at CSU Stanislaus, has been providing

Stress in COVID Zoom training; there are a couple more trainings. If anyone is interested, Sharon asked to please reach out to Caitlin. The next step of trainings that she is doing is trauma informed trainings – there will be 2 trauma informed trainings. Sharon noted that Jennifer did an exceptional job with her training. Sharon encouraged the group to participate if they have the time.

XIII. Prevention Efforts

Sharon Jones stated that Irene Cacho, Strengthening Families Community and Development Partner, has been utilizing the prevention and early intervention van the most in the Le Grand Community. The Strengthening Families program also has a partnership with the Department of Workforce Investment where they are seeing families who are providing services as farmworkers. Sharon expressed that they are really trying to connect with individuals in need of care that are often referred to as unserved or underserved. In terms of the Strengthening Families program, which is a prevention and early intervention program, they have been taking referrals throughout Merced County - usually they focus in the outlying and specific areas but they have been taking referrals from just about everywhere, including Farmdale Elementary and Weaver School District. Sharon is set up to speak to other school districts as well because individuals need support. The Strengthening Families Community Development Partners are doing home visits using protective equipment to reach families in real time.

XIV. Administrative Updates and Changes

In terms of administrative updates, Sharon said that they will come with our annual update. The council will be informed of all the changes in the annual update. As mentioned previously, the group will receive the annual update for review. The public hearing will be on May 4, 2021. Sharon asked if there were any questions on what she has presented. She added that she is open for questions at any time if anyone needs clarification; she will provide the best information she has in real time.

XV. Possibilities and Success Stories

Jenna Nunes, Sierra Vista, announced that they will be hosting their first stigma drive thru event at Merced High School from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Because it is in their parking lot, it will be opened up to the community to be able to drive through and see what resources are available in Merced. She mentioned that Livingston Community Health, NAMI, Sierra Vista, and Strengthening Families will be there. She noted that Caitlin Haygood sent out the flyer yesterday or the day before. Everyone was invited to drive through the Merced High parking lot. Jenna added that masks are required. There are students on campus attending school, so those students will be coming to the event as well.

Jennifer Xiong, Hlub Hmong Center, announced about their bi-weekly virtual events. They already had 4 events and they will be having their 5th event on April 2nd- it will be about community resources and civic engagement. If anybody has any individuals who want to connect to their community, she invited them to join. She asked that they let her know ahead of time so that she could send them the invite early on. Jennifer also announced that this Friday, March 26th at 6:00 pm, Merced is having their first Asian American Pacific Islander Healing Vigil inviting community members and local officials to take part. Violent-hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans have risen in the past year just due to the pandemic so we are having this vigil to heal and also to reflect on the shooting that took place a week and a half ago in Atlanta, Georgia, where 6 out of 8 people killed were Asian – they wanted to come together and heal. They are going to be inviting someone to do some breath work, learning about the Central Valley Asian American community and what are the next steps, how can we become better allies or support for our community. They have also been having biweekly champion meetings. If they know any Hmong parents or clients that would like to have a safe space to talk about the issues that they're concerned about, she said to please join their Parent Champion meetings. They also have monthly education partnership meetings with Hmong educators – if they know any Hmong educators for those who work for Hmong schools, to please invite them to those meetings as well.

XVI. Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled on the 4th Thursday of the month, April 22, 2021.

XVII. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.