

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

August 15, 2019

9:00am

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

Present:

Nancy Reding, Derrick Oliveira, Rhonda J. Prater, Zachery Coston, Monica Adrian, Ricky Pal, Maria Orozco, Mai Ka Yang, Anna M Diaz, Jessica Wheeler, Richard Luvian, Sandra Sandoval, Laura Ruell, Sharon Mendonca, Cindy Mattox, Vong Chang, Sophia Ornelas, Anna Santos, Marilyn Mochel, Griselda Vazquez, Adam Lane, Jen Ramos, Chris Bobbitt, Caitlin Haygood, Elizabeth Casarez, Sharon Jones, Andrea Tovar

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for July 18, 2019 was motioned/seconded (Rhonda J. Prater/Christopher Jensen) and carried.

III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Nancy Reding, Vice Chair, encouraged all attendees to sign in to maintain an updated contact list.

IV. Notice to the Public

No notice to the public.

V. Chair's Report

Chair not present, no report.

VI. Director's Report

Sharon Mendonca, Assistant Director of BHRS, announced that the navigation center, New Beginnings, remains very busy with providing numerous services. Sharon Mendonca also announced that the Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will be moving back to its original location by the end of September 2019 with the capacity to hold 8 beds. The Youth CSU will hold 4 beds.

VII. Program Presentation

Ricky Pal, VSO of H.S.A. Veterans Services, introduced Derek Oliveira, Veterans Claims Supervisor of H.S.A. Veterans Services, who presented the Merced County Veterans Services program to the council. The presentation provided information pertaining to funding amount provided by MHSA, program scope, priority population, referral process, service locations, clients served and success stories. Ricky Pal announced that flyers and tabling registration forms for the upcoming Veterans' Stand Down event will become available soon. Ricky Pal also announced the program's involvement with the Veterans' Treatment Court, which provides treatment to Veterans as an alternative to receiving fines or jail time. The Veteran's Handbook and Resource Guide was made available to all members of the council. The council members were able to ask questions pertaining to the various services. Marilyn Mochel, of BHC and NAMI Merced, announced that NAMI Merced recently developed the Home Front program for the families of veterans who are experiencing mental health issues. It was also announced that NAMI Merced has the ability to provide a support group for veterans, led by an individual with lived experience who is connected as a family member to a veteran with a mental health disorder.

VIII. Update on MHSA Audit

Sharon Jones thanked the MHSA team and the various programs for their work in submitting all necessary documentation for the upcoming audit. The state is now completing a desk review during the month of August. The audit is set to begin September 10, 2019.

IX. Update on Focus Group

Sharon Jones gave a brief overview of the various focus groups that have been held. Sharon Jones announced that additional focus groups have been scheduled and can be scheduled for future dates. Feedback from the various focus groups was shared with the council. The group discussed language barriers during meetings and focus groups.

X. MHSA Community Planning Timeline

Sharon Jones distributed the MHSA Community Planning Timeline to all members of the council and gave a brief overview of the document.

XI. Review of MHSA Component goals

Sharon Jones distributed the MHSA Component goals to all members of the council and gave a brief overview of the document. The council reviewed the goals.

XII. MHSA approved Program names

Sharon Jones distributed a list of MHSA approved program names to most members of the council and gave a brief overview of the document. Sharon Jones encouraged all providers to know which funding streams are funding their programs. Marilyn Mochel, of BHC and NAMI Merced, inquired about updated MHSA brochures.

XIII. MHSA Issue Resolution Process

Sharon Jones gave a brief overview of the MHSA Issue Resolution Process. Sharon Jones also informed the council that the process is posted on the Merced County website.

XIV. September Suicide Prevention Month

Sharon Jones gave a brief overview of 2018's Suicide Prevention events and trainings. A banner will be placed above 'G' Street and several events are being planned for the month of September. More information to share in the near future.

XV. Administrative Updates and Changes

Sharon Jones announced that the LGBTQ+ supportive services grants is pending approval from the Board of Supervisors.

XVI. Possibilities and Success Stories

Marilyn Mochel announced that NAMI Merced served 39 unduplicated individuals under the Connection Recovery group during its first month. Chris Bobbitt, of H.S.A., announced the free viewing of Lives Well Lived – Celebrating the Secrets, Wit and Wisdom of Age scheduled for Friday, August 23, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Merced Theatre on West Main Street. Adam Lane, Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance, announced the upcoming monthly Family and Friends group, Gender Non-conformity group, and stated that a new group is forming for those who identify on the asexual spectrum. Adam Lane informed all that the Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance is currently updating its website.

XVII. Next Steps

Program presentation- Caring Kids. Send out MHSA Component goals and Program presentation schedule to all members. Provide copies of the MHSA brochure during next scheduled meeting.

XVIII. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 am.