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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

BHS UPDATE

DATE: July 25, 2021

TO: Members of the County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

FROM: Jeffrey A. Nagel, Ph.D.
Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update for July 2021

Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABH)

Residential Treatment Services: Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment admissions are at their highest level in the last 4 months, with approximately 190 requests and 130 admissions to residential treatment during the month of June. There were 24 referrals received during the month of June from in-custody, 14 of which successfully linked to residential treatment. Moreover, the **Drug Medi-Cal (DMC)** benefit restricting residential treatment to two (2) stays in a year was lifted by the State retroactively to January 2021. Potential clients are no longer screened for the number of residential episodes of care. Currently, there is no wait for access to withdrawal management services, and access to residential treatment is available within ten days or less.

Phoenix House will begin 3.2 Withdrawal Management services at their Santa Ana location by the end of July.

Recovery Residences continue to be available for clients stepping down from residential treatment. The **Recovery Station** (sobering center) continues to see a slow increase in the number of referrals and continues to outreach to law enforcement. **Teen Project - Vera's Sanctuary** is doing important work with the SUD population and specializing in victims of human trafficking. In addition to residential SUD treatment, Vera's has been able to sponsor vocational education for clients as they transition out of residential treatment.

The **SUD Program** is expanding the peer mentoring contract to also begin working with youth in addition to the current work with adults. The peer mentoring contract partners with county and contracted Substance Use Treatment providers to provide navigation and linkage throughout the system of care.

Collaborative Services: The **Mental Health Collaborative Courts** staff are attending more in person hearings as the courts have re-opened. Assessments are still done via telehealth due to challenges with jail transport. CalWORKs county staff and contract providers are now able to meet with individuals face-to-face at Social Services Agency (SSA) offices. **Prop. 47** county team transitioned over to Cohort two (2) and has staff dedicated to providing treatment to the reentry population including individuals with substance use, mental health, and co-occurring disorders.

Older Adults: For the month of June, **Older Adult Services (OAS)** programs admitted 37 new cases. Clinical staff are facilitating telehealth appointments with clients and psychiatrists. It is anticipated that telephonic intake assessments will be discontinued in the near future. In addition, staff are providing vaccination resources and assisting clients by helping them to sign up for appointments, identify walk-in clinics, and arranging transportation. The **Clubhouse** re-opened as of 7/7/21. They will be conducting activities in the patio to facilitate social distancing. The activities for July are cooking, gardening, crafts, and benefits acquisition.

For the month of June, **OASIS** served a total of 191 members and was able to successfully transition back to providing primarily face-to-face services.

Crisis Services: All **PERT** teams are back in the squad cars with Law Enforcement (LE) and HCA is continuing to work on expanding the PERT services to LE partners. In addition, BHS staff organized a two-day community forum for city staff, law enforcement and hospital staff to provide an overview of the current crisis response system, and to develop consensus around opportunities, aspirations and results. This event was held July 21-22 at Freedom Hall in Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley.

Housing and Supportive Services: The office of **Housing and Supportive Services** is happy to announce the opening of two new properties in Orange County. There are 35 new units funded by MHSA in the Buena Esperanza property in Anaheim, and there are 20 new units funded by MHSA in the Westminster Crossing property located in Westminster. The “**Home First**” adult full-service partnership (FSP) will be providing the on-site supportive services for both of these properties. The FSP will be providing behavioral health services and support to the MHSA residents to make a successful transition from homelessness to permanent supportive housing.

Centralized Services: All three **Wellness Center** facilities have re-opened for in-person groups with limited telehealth groups also being offered. All Centers are back to normal operational hours, Monday - Saturday, including one late night for each of the centers. Wellness Center Central will be holding their annual Art Fair on 7/28/21. Members and staff are required to wear face coverings while at the center and staff are regularly cleaning and disinfecting their centers throughout the day. Each center is providing updates about their programs on their respective websites, and staff are reaching out to members to check on their well-being.

The **Representative Payee** program continues to be fully operational and accepting referrals. Current case load is 93, which is the highest level it has been for more than a decade. The program continues to work with Social Security Administration. to process applications and payments.

The **AOABH Peer Mentoring (PM)** In person field visits are being conducted. Track two (2) Peer Navigator continue to be embedded in the County CSU and College CSU teams. Track two (2) has presented to Huntington Beach and Anaheim Global hospitals in the hopes of partnering with them to offer PM services. There will be a future presentation with College Hospital and UCI.

The North and South County **Supported Employment** program returned to full operational status, providing job placement assistance and training for their participants. The program is offering in-person service, for individuals that may need to use a computer to job search or develop a resume.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordination

The **MHSA Plan Update for FY 2021-22** was brought before the Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on 6/22/21 and was unanimously approved. After which, the fully approved plan was posted on the MHSA Website and sent to the Mental Health Association Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) on 6/30/21.

There was no MHSA Steering Committee meeting for the month of July but there will be an update to the **Help@Hand Innovation Project** during the month of August. Furthermore, the MHSA Office is currently looking to finalize the membership for the new BHAB MHSA Subcommittee which will take the place of the current MHSA Steering Committee.

Board Date	Item	Amount
7/27/21	Charitable Ventures of Orange County for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation services, 7/28/21 - 6/30/22	\$140,302