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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

BHS UPDATE

DATE: September 14, 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 September 2021

Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABH)

Collaborative Services: In July 2021, AB 1976 expanded the list of eligible referral sources for **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)** to include judges in a superior court. Since then, AOT has received 7 referrals from judges, which has allowed the program to collaborate with the court and outreach to more individuals in need of services. In the pre-trial mental health diversion (AB 1810), the BHS team has been working in collaboration with the court, Public Defender's Office, and District Attorney's Office to develop a process to identify and assess eligible individuals quickly, monitor their progress, and provide information for court hearings.

Housing and Supportive Services: Individuals continue to move into Buena Esperanza located in Anaheim. Fourteen (14) people have moved into one of the 35 **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing** units. Westminster Crossing property has 20 MHSA units, and residents will begin moving-in during the week of 9/20/21.

The "**Home First**" adult Full-Service Partnership (FSP) provides on-site supportive services for the MHSA units at Buena Esperanza and Westminster Crossing. Home First FSP provides behavioral health services and support to the MHSA residents to make a successful transition from homelessness to permanent supportive housing.

Children, Youth and Prevention Behavioral Health Services (CYPBHS)

HCA has contracted with Seneca Family of Agencies to provide **Family Urgent Response System (FURS) Services**. Required by law under SB80, FURS consists of a 24-hour a day, seven days a week, mobile response team that will respond to community calls regarding current or former foster youth, ages 0-21, during moments of conflict in their relationships, emotional distress or behavioral or other difficulties that may threaten their relationships and/or placement stability. Seneca Family of Agencies will work to stabilize the youth and placement setting and will connect families to community resources.

Office of Suicide Prevention and Prevention and Intervention: On 9/14/21, the Orange County Board of Supervisors presented the OC Health Care Agency with two separate resolutions. The first resolution was to

observe September as National Recovery Month and the second resolution was to acknowledge September as national suicide prevention month.

The importance of recovery, especially for those affected by mental health and substance use disorders was highlighted. The focus of **National Recovery Month (Recovery Month)** this September is to celebrate everyone who makes the journey of recovery possible by embracing the 2021 theme, “**Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community.**” **Recovery Month** spreads the message that people can and do recover every day.

The OC Board of Supervisors recognized the newly formed Office of Suicide Prevention and presented the resolution to also acknowledge 9/5 – 9/11/21 as Suicide Prevention Week. The theme for this year “**Supportive Transitions: Reconnect, Reenter, and Rebuild**” allows us to reflect on our life as we reenter and rebuild the fabric of our daily life that were fundamentally disrupted. Reconnecting with supportive relationships and practicing positive coping skills is essential for our emotional well-being. Suicide prevention month allows us to highlight that we can all play a part in suicide prevention and for those who may be struggling - there is hope.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

During the last MHSA Update meeting that took place on 8/16/21, it was indicated that the MHSA Steering Committee will be replaced with monthly stakeholder informational meetings. These meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of every month, from 1:00-2:00 pm. The topics planned for the remainder of the year are:

- September 20, 2021: The Office of Suicide Prevention
- October 18, 2021: OC LINKS/OC Navigator
- November 15, 2021: Housing
- December 2021: No Meeting scheduled due to the winter holidays

Board Date	Item	Amount
9/28/21	Approved Amendment No. 4 to the Contract with Charitable Ventures of OC, for Provision of Ealy Childhood and Youth Mental Health Consultation Services to increase the contract amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, effective September 29, 2021, through June 30, 2022.	\$1,000,000