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## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

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### MHRS UPDATE

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**DATE:** January 20, 2022

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

**FROM:** Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW  
Chief of Mental Health & Recovery Services

**SUBJECT:** Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Update for December 2021 & January 2022

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### **Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABHS)**

#### **Residential Treatment Services**

Residential Treatment Services recently closed the bid for applications for Perinatal Recovery Residences. MHRS has released the Request for Applications (RFA) for adult recovery residences and will close the RFA January 15, 2022. Due to the recent COVID-19 surge, some residential facilities have been experiencing COVID outbreaks and have been forced to temporarily suspend admissions. Providers are taking the necessary precautions to protect staff and clients during this time.

#### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing**

All 35 MHSA units at Buena Esperanza are occupied. Opening day for Altrudy Seniors and Ascent (MHSA housing project) has been pushed back. Altrudy, which has ten (10) MHSA units designated for seniors ages 62 plus and is in the city of Yorba Linda, is now scheduled to open in May 2022. Ascent which has twenty-eight (28) MHSA units located in the city of Buena Park, is now scheduled to open in April 2022.

#### **Collaborative Services**

In December, HCA released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Behavioral Health CalWORKs services and Adult Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services including General Population FSP, Criminal Justice FSP and Collaborative Court FSP. The RFP recently closed, and the evaluation process will begin in a few weeks. As part of Prop. 47 Grant Cohort 2 transition, the reentry system navigator began providing jail in-reach to individuals who are referred by Correction Health Services with serious mental illness. Since the start of jail in-reach in December of 2021, there has been an increase in linkage to services. For the CalWORKs program, Mariposa Women and Family Center's north office moved to 1845 W. Orangewood Ave. Ste. 300 Orange, CA 92868.

Since the transition of mental health diversion to the community court building 1 in September, the Behavioral Health Clinician assigned there was able to assess 32 individuals. Additionally, the clinician coordinates with the jails to create a discharge plan to link individuals to treatment, follows up with cases and provides treatment recommendations and reports to the court team. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program has seen an increase in the number of individuals participating in court-involved treatment as well as an increase in AOT referrals, with 27 for November.

### **Crisis Services**

Crisis Services has seen multiple census reductions at the Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) and Crisis Residential Programs (CRP) due to the recent COVID surge. MHRS is in the process of linking the CSU Bed Board to OCLINKS so any member of the public or law enforcement (LE) can call for the County CSU bed census. Although the College Hospital and Exodus CSUs have been trained, the bed board has yet to be implemented due to staffing shortages and the expectation is to have them implemented in the next few months. For Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), CIT subgroups will be held this month along with the CIT Steering Committee meeting. The CIT group is working on refining proposed changes to the CIT intercept mapping and exploring the possibility of 911 diversion with agencies that have a history of successfully outcomes. MHRS is working on implementing an iPad pilot for CAT with OCLINKs and possibly some LE in order to reduce response times. The pilot is still in the preliminary stages of development.

### **Older Adult Services**

For the month of December 2021, OAS admitted 58 new cases. Field visits in all OAS programs continued to increase as most clients reported experiencing loneliness and isolation during the holidays. Staff are providing vaccination resources and assisting clients that want to get vaccinated by helping them sign up for appointments, identify walk-in clinics, and arranging transportation to vaccination clinics. OAS staff are continuing to facilitate WebEx appointments with clients that are not ready for in-person services. Psychiatric services are still being conducted primarily via telephone as most of the older adult clients do not have the technology to access video platforms.

### **OASIS**

For the month of December, OASIS enrolled 4 new members and had 12 medical hospitalizations and 4 psychiatric hospitalizations. OASIS hosted a Holiday Celebration Lunch for members where they also received gifts such as; basic needs items, blankets, and hygiene items. Additional groups were offered throughout the month, which included: Crafting Wellness, Seeking Safety, Art Group and Peer Support.

### **Mental Health & Recovery Services**

MHRS recently launched Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to supplement the county's existing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program at the Santa Ana clinic as of Monday, December 13, 2021. The program is currently accepting MAT referrals from Correctional Health Services and all MHRS SUD county clinics. MAT is a critical component of the Health Care Agency's current response to address the opioid epidemic impacting our community. MAT brings evidenced-based and effective medication therapies to individuals experiencing a SUD. These medications, including buprenorphine for opioid use disorder and naltrexone for opioid and alcohol use, support individuals in abstaining from substance use and advancing in recovery. The goal in the coming weeks is to expand the referral sources to Emergency Departments and other community partners.

### **Substance Use Disorder/ Drug Medi- Cal (SUD/DMC)**

HCA is contracted with The Teen Project, Inc. in January 2022 to provide Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Residential Treatment and Withdrawal Management Services for adolescent females ages 12 through 17 years old. Residential Treatment and Withdrawal Management Services are provided 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year in this six-bed facility in Orange County. Services are individualized based on client need and may include: individual, family, and group counseling; substance use related education; case management; structured therapeutic activities; and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). The Teen Project, Inc. will work to stabilize adolescents and facilitate linkage to lower levels of care to continue with their recovery.

In January 2022, Western Pacific Re-Hab and Western Pacific Med-Corp have expanded to provide Narcotic Replacement Therapy (NRT) Treatment Services to adolescents ages 12 through 17 years old, in addition to their adult population. NRT services will be provided to adolescents with Medi-Cal as well as to uninsured adolescents. NRT services are available to adolescents who have had two unsuccessful attempts at short-term detoxification or drug-free treatment within a 12-month period. Services are individualized based on client need and may include: medication services, individual and group counseling, case management, and linkage with ancillary services. Western Pacific Re-Hab and Western Pacific Med-Corp will work in collaboration with other treatment providers to support adolescents in their recovery. Services will be provided at their facilities in Mission Viejo, Stanton, Fullerton, and Costa Mesa

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**

The MHSA Office distributed a community survey at the end of December focusing on areas of need in regard to community planning for the upcoming MHSA Plan Update for FY 2022/2023. The MHSA Office distributed the survey to approximately 1,300 individuals, and over 200 contracted organizations, and BHAB recommended organizations. The survey will close January 31.

There was no MHSA informational meeting for the month of January due to the third Monday of the month being a holiday. The MHSA Office is looking at dates and topics for the upcoming year and will provide the BHAB with the information when it becomes available.