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## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

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### MHRS UPDATE

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**DATE:** February 15, 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 February 2022

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### **Adult and Older Adult Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS)**

#### **Outpatient Services**

In December 2021, HCA released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Drug Medi-Cal Outpatient programs to include Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. The RFP closed on January 13, 2022, and the evaluation process is underway. MHRS recently implemented MAT services in the Santa Ana Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Clinic to expand the County's existing SUD treatment program and will continue to expand over the next six months into three additional SUD clinic locations – Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, and Westminster. The Santa Ana MAT services is only being offered to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and unfunded residents currently enrolled in one of the four County SUD clinics and is also receiving referrals from those individuals who are released from the jail setting or discharged from an Emergency Department.

#### **Mental Health Services Act Housing**

On January 19, 2022, HCA submitted two (2) No Place Like Home joint project applications with housing developers to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for a total of 23 MHSA permanent supportive housing units. Awards are anticipated to be announced in June 2022.

#### **Crisis Services**

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is exploring 911 diversion. CIT is also working toward starting a small pilot with the Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) to station CAT staff at an Orange County Sheriff's Department 911 dispatch center. CAT is collaborating with Pathways on developing a peer co-response model.

### **Mental Health and Recovery Services – Central Services**

All three **Wellness Center** facilities are open for operations Monday thru Saturday and are offering hybrid groups, allowing remote participation for members. Each of the centers are coordinating various events, including celebrating Black History month.

The **MHRS Peer Mentoring (PM)** program has expanded their services to the Be Well Campus Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in early January 2022. A Peer Navigator is embedded with the Exodus CSU team Monday thru Friday.

**Project Kinship (PK)** has been approved as a closed access point for Health Management Information System (HMIS)/Coordinated Entry System (CES) PK will be able to enter individuals directly into the HMIS portal for increased housing support and community resources, as well as an opportunity for receiving long term housing vouchers.

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

The MHSA Office is hosting Community Engagement Meetings starting Feb 15, 2022, through March 3, 2022. Meetings are for general community members, including those that speak Spanish and Vietnamese, and for providers. The MHSA office sent invites to all available list-serves (approximately 1500). Once the Community Engagement Meetings are completed all the information, as well as the information gathered from the MHSA Community Survey, will help guide HCA in writing the FY 2022-23 MHSA Plan Update, which is the final year of the three-year plan. The Public Hearing for the MHSA Plan will be held in May.

The HCA/MHSA **Innovation** Office facilitated community engagement meetings on February 3, 8 and 10 2022, to gather input on two potential Innovation proposals. The meetings were well attended, with about 40 – 70 people in attendance across all meetings. Community members provided feedback on project implementation activities and budget components. HCA will post the proposals for 30-day public comment by the end of February. Additional updates on the status of these two proposals will be provided in future MHRS Updates.