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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD BHS UPDATE

DATE: September 21, 2020

TO: Members of the County of Orange Mental Health Board

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

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update for September 2020

Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABH)

County Operated Programs: While essential face-to-face services continued throughout the pandemic, BHS shifted towards a telehealth and telephonic platform for services. As of September, BHS began transitioning back towards more in-person and face-to-face outpatient services. This transition will also allow groups, drug testing and clubhouses to resume, which had also been suspended during the pandemic. All outpatient programs were supplied with additional safety features, such as PPE and protective barriers to allow face-to-face services to be provided safely for both the client and employee. Telehealth services will continue to be offered for clients who do not feel comfortable returning to the clinics.

Contracted Programs: All substance use disorder (SUD) providers are continuing to remain open and are providing services on site, including drug testing, individual and group counseling services. Telehealth and telephonic services remain available.

Residential Treatment Services: Last month, Residential Treatment Services reported a few temporary suspensions of admissions due to COVID-19. HCA is grateful to report that all operations have resumed with contract providers. Services include recovery residences, withdrawal management and residential treatment.

AOABH Crisis Services: The Board approved the contract for Stars Behavioral Group on 6/23/20, for the Central Crisis Residential site. The pre-licensing walk through with CCL was completed on 9/9/20 with the conversion date anticipated to be on 9/14/20 from the current provider. The Crisis Residential North facility was converted to **Silver Treehouse** on 9/1/2020 and continues to work on ways to increase the referral of individuals 60 and over during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Older Adult Services (OAS): OASIS is providing face to face services in outdoor areas to help minimize the vulnerable population's exposure to COVID-19. In addition, they continue to provide weekly food runs to local food shelters and/or grocery stores to provide groceries and hygiene items for any members that need assistance. Field visits in the OAS programs have been gradually increasing and staff are being equipped with masks, face shields and hand sanitizers while continuing to practice social distancing. OAS staff are also continuing telephone sessions with clients to address anxiety, isolation, and depression due to COVID-19.

OAS SHOPP, START and Recovery has received CARES Act funding to assist the older adult population with acquiring necessary items that they are unable to obtain due to COVID-19. A needs assessment has been completed and we are in the process of obtaining and distributing sanitizing kits, hygiene kits, water, and food packages.

Children, Youth and Prevention Behavioral Health Services (CYPBHS)

HCA entered into a Specialty Mental Health Services contract for Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) with South Coast Children’s Society (SCCS) effective 9/1/20 through 6/30/21. SCCS will have four STRTP sites, with six beds each for a total of 24 beds for the placement of youth ages 10 through 21 who are wards of the court through Social Services Agency or Juvenile Probation. The overarching goal of the STRTP is to provide trauma-informed therapeutic interventions and integrated programming designed to address barriers to a youth’s ability to safely transition and reside in a home-based family setting in support of permanency and the youth’s well-being.

Navigation and Training Division: Through CARES Act Funding, U.S. Vets has begun providing services and is accepting referrals. The programs focus on connecting with isolated veterans impacted by COVID-19 through social engagement sessions and technical assistance training to access resources. The program accepts referrals by phone at 866-220-7405 or email at OCpeersupport@usvetsinc.org.

Multicultural Development Program: The annual Cultural Competency Training was released this week and focused on Unconscious Bias. This training is mandatory for all BHS staff and contract providers. In this training, staff will learn about unconscious bias and how it may affect their behavior in the workplace.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordination

The MHSA Office is finalizing a survey to better understand the impact COVID-19 has had on community members’ mental health and well-being, the types of support they have received and barriers, if any, they have experienced when trying to seek support during the pandemic. The MHSA Office hopes to launch the electronic survey community-wide via a media marketing firm within the next two weeks. In addition, the **MHSA Steering Committee** will be meeting on 9/21/20. Sharon Browning, who worked with MHSA in Orange County for a number of years, will facilitate this meeting. The State fiscal consultant Mike Geiss will present on the state/local MHSA financial outlook, and Dr. Nagel will present on proposed strategies and recommendations on how to address the MHSA budget shortfall. Additional meetings will be scheduled, if needed, for continued conversation.

Agenda Staff Reports (ASRs)

BOS Date	Title	Amount
09/15/20	Telecare Corporation for Housing Full Services Partnership, 9/15/20 – 6/30/23	\$7,590,032