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## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

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### MHRS UPDATE

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**DATE:** October 18, 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 October 2022

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

**Central Services:** All three **Wellness Centers** (WC) are coordinating various fall events, including a Halloween event at each of the Centers. WC South has been able to obtain an additional suite for their program facility, which will enable the program to now occupy the entire first floor. The Center will be expanding the group room to accommodate more members, while keeping the privacy of the groups confidential. Remodeling is anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

The **Adult Supported Employment program**, operated by Goodwill (GW), held their monthly Job Club on 10/13/22, which offers tips and suggestions about seeking, obtaining, and maintaining employment. They recently partnered with all the WCs allowing viewing parties to be held at each of the centers. GW will be hosting their semi-annual Graduation event on 11/10/22, recognizing participants who have achieved a minimum of 90 days in competitive employment or voluntary work experience.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on 10/7/22, for the **Homeless Multi-Service Center**, currently operated in Santa Ana by the Mental Health Association. This program is in its fifth year of operation under the current Agreement, and per County Procurement Office policy, it is due for solicitation at the five-year mark. The RFP is requesting two Multi-Service Center, one in Santa Ana area and the other in the Anaheim or Fullerton areas. Proposals are due from interested bidders on 11/4/22, with services to begin on 7/1/23.

An RFP was released on 10/4/22 for **Non-Emergency Transportation Services**, currently operated by California Yellow Cab. This program is in its fifth year of operation under the current Agreement, and per County Procurement Office policy, it is due for solicitation at the five-year mark. Proposals are due from interested bidders on 11/1/22, with services to begin on 7/1/23.

**Collaborative Services:** On 10/6/22, HCA released the RFP for three new adult Full Service Partnership (FSP) services: Spanish Speaking, Vietnamese Speaking and Veteran FSP. The RFP is scheduled to close on 11/3/22.

**Crisis Services:** The **Adult In home Crisis Stabilization** program solicitation RFPs has been posted and is available on Periscope, accepting applications through 10/24/22.

The **Adult and Older Adult Peer Mentoring (PM)** program is fully operational for both Tracks. Track 2 has partnered with Aliso Ridge Behavioral Health Hospital and a Peer Navigator is now on-site Monday thru Friday and embedded as part of the multi-disciplinary team in their inpatient setting to work with clients who need assistance in meeting their follow-up outpatient service obligations. Track 2 continues to collaborate with College Hospital Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach Hospital to add a Peer Navigator to their inpatient settings and hopes to be able to implement this at both locations soon. Track 2 has developed a partnership with the Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) and there are now three Peer Navigators co-located with CAT that are dispatched as a team with CAT clinicians in the field.

**Older Adult Services: Older Adult Services (OAS) Clinic** admitted 34 new clients, while 37 clients either graduated or successfully transitioned to a lower level of care. Additionally, OAS was able to successfully transition 6 homeless clients living in their car or homeless shelter to stable housing. OAS staff continue to focus on educating clients on the impact of social isolation.

The **Clubhouse** continues to be open three days a week with 10-11 clients consistently presenting each week for activities and gatherings. Activities continued to include art projects, healthy cooking, and developing coping skills to manage mental health symptoms.

**OASIS** has been diligently working on assisting members apply for new housing opportunities. As a result, OASIS has a total of 47 members in independent housing. This is almost double from 28 members that had housing in January. OASIS has made a 110% increase on graduations thus far this year

**DUI and Drug Court:** For the month of September, we celebrated over 10 graduations from our court programs. Drug court is in the beginning stages of implementing a new **Misdemeanor Court** and currently designing the curriculum that will be utilized.

### **Children, Youth and Prevention Mental Health and Recovery Services**

**ADEPT:** Twice a year the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) coordinates the **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**. This effort helps combat the overdose epidemic and is intended to keep youth and families safe. On 10/29/22, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the community will be able to dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted medications at approximately 17 locations throughout Orange County. To locate a nearby Take Back site, visit [www.dea.gov/takebackday](http://www.dea.gov/takebackday). In addition to promoting the event on HCA's social media, there are step-by-step instructions on how to dispose of unwanted medications at home as well as a list of year-round drop sites at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9hzeve>.

The nation's largest and longest-running drug-use prevention campaign, **Red Ribbon Week**, will be celebrated this year on October 23-31, with the theme "**Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free.**" There are national activities youth can get involved in, such as the National Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest ([www.redribbon.org/contest-2022](http://www.redribbon.org/contest-2022)) or many local events, including Mission Viejo's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Against Drugs on 10/15/22. ([www.cityofmissionviejo.org/events/walk-against-drugs](http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org/events/walk-against-drugs)). HCA, along with its contracted projects, will be providing parent education workshops, community resource events and youth prevention activities supporting the campaign throughout the month. The Red Ribbon Campaign began in 1985 in response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena. In communities across the country, parents and youth began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs in America.

One strategy the HCA's Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team employed to fight the prescription drug and opioid abuse crisis was the implementation of a social media campaign titled **Life is Greater than Drugs (Life>Drugs)**. Based on research and local data, the campaign targeted teens, ages 13 – 18, to educate and increase awareness of the dangers of prescription painkillers, such as opioids, while providing healthy alternative activities. Campaign information also focused on fentanyl and the dangers of taking drugs obtained through social media and the internet. A total of six short video ads were designed, which displayed facts that emphasized the dangers of misusing opioids. The campaign was delivered through various social media platforms: Instagram, Tik Tok, and Snap Chat. It ran two different time periods and was shown to reach Orange County youth. Results included close to 90,000,000 impressions –

users seeing the advertisement, and over 64,000,000 video views (watching a video in its entirety). You can check out the campaign website and videos by visiting [www.lifeisgreaterhandrugs.com](http://www.lifeisgreaterhandrugs.com).

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**

The MHSA office conducted its fourth **Community Informational/Planning meeting** on 10/17/22 with the topic of Services for School-Age Children and Youth. The Orange County Department of Education presented first and covered the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA). This grant program establishing in 2019, provides mental health partnerships between the County and school districts/charter schools and County offices of education. It is administered by the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) but not funded by MHSA. Following this presentation, Mark Lawrenz, Prevention and Early Intervention Manager, provided an update to all of the different service areas and programs available for Children and Youth. The next MHSA meeting will be held on 11/21/22. The MHSA Office announced an **All-Day Summit** planned for 11/10/22 at the OC Behavioral Health Training Center. The purpose of the summit is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share in planning and improvement of Mental Health and Recovery Services in Orange County. To register please use the following link: [https://ochca2.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_50VygrHoinpmyd8](https://ochca2.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50VygrHoinpmyd8)

Agenda Staff Reports approved by the Board of Supervisor in September:

Date	Item	Amount
9/27	Approve Orange County Behavioral Health Advisory Board Bylaws and removal of one subcommittee	NA
9/27	Approve master services agreement MA-042-23010291 with Mind OC for mental health and recovery services, 10/1/22 - 6/30/25	\$63,832,280