



ORANGE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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Substance Use Disorder Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

*In-Person meeting

405 W. 5th Street., Room 202, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Hybrid Option:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86339306157>

Meeting ID: 863 3930 6157

10:00 – 10:05 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Participants attending: Mark Lawrenz, Diane Holly, Robin Rose, Mitch Cherness, Susan Emerson, Chelsea Gordon, Tamara Jimenez, Fred Williams, Tracy Ernt, Angela Flores, Alan Albright, Donella C. Ryan Gavin, Farah Bailey,

10:05 – 10:10 a.m.

Public Comment: N/A

10:10 – 10:55 a.m.

Scheduled Discussion Items:

• Goals of the Committee-

Support collaboration among leaders, professionals, and community members in mental health, SUD and co-occurring disorders. Promote SUD and other behavioral health disorders, prevention, treatment, education, and recovery.

Mitch Cherness suggested a treatment on demand as a priority goal.

Objectives- The objective of the committee should be to identify and strengthen opportunities for people to have access to treatment and recovery and access to aftercare. Identify model prevention intervention and lesson in integrating prevention and treatment. Identify opportunities to collect state and local data on the impact of mental health and SUD issues, including but not limited to racial ethnic, gender, location and socioeconomic health equity.

• **Opioid Abatement Plan-** Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services- Susan Emerson commented on the Prevention commercials which are showing on PBS displaying fentanyl is forever. She was supportive of the prevention ads, however, it is lacking the advisement of where Narcan is available. She mentioned CVS Pharmacy has it available for a cost, but not everyone can afford it. She suggested adding a QR code at pharmacy counters, where they can access free Narcan. There is a sense that some providers do not want to store it. Mark- there are public services announcements which include information on Fentanyl, we can look at ways to include QR codes to have access points for free Narcan.

- Robin suggested upping the social campaign, as there are large amounts of Narcan to distribute. There have been 43 community members added that have naloxone. She said they have distributed 12,000 doses in the community.
- **Adult Residential Treatment (ART) Team-** Susan Emerson would like to look into smoother transitions of clients into placements. She would like to see the ART Team collaborating with providers. Mitch Cherness asked if the goal is treatment on demand and questioned how effective the outcomes have been. He would like to know if the program is currently working the way it was originally thought off, as it currently includes an additional step which allows for a delay in getting people into treatment. He expressed concern on having waitlists for treatment and suggested this idea is now creating a longer waitlist. He suggested pending Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) providers should have ways to provide treatment and receive some sort of cash payment for the services; creating a system that would be ideal.
- Tracy Ernt provided some background on the ART team. She included that having the ART team has allowed for appointment wait times to shift from 14 days to now 2-3 days or sometimes same day. They have seen that the ART team is being addressed for multiple services other than just placements and are focusing on trying to streamline the process to be faster but still efficient. The ART team has 100+ appointment slots per week and have added two schedulers to help with getting folks appointments and getting them in to treatment as soon as possible. The goal is to get them into treatment same day or the least amount of possible days, with the goal of being as close possible to on demand treatment. All in-custody folks cannot do same day bed placement. Tammara suggested that appointments and placements should be based on medical necessity. There is only 188 beds in Orange County and there is a greater need for beds. Tamara suggested the process for applying for DMC is too lengthy and should discourages some providers to apply. Should this process be less complicated, there would be more bed availability.
- Susan encouraged building a bridge to help work together as a community and have a better opportunity to work with in the means.
- Steve McNally mentioned balancing expectations and understanding where there are issues or need for improvement. Getting topics on the table such as public facing materials for community awareness. The County focuses on OC Navigator but suggested focusing on other resources that are not currently being addressed. He questioned how the community understands what the County is doing for SUD placements and asked if County contracted programs can become aware of all other available services to provide awareness in the community.
- Mark Lawrenz reported the current waitlist as of today- 1 female / 7 males and three open beds to fill.
- Susan asked for a flow chart for the referral areas for internal and public facing.
- Farah asked how to address 1090s that can't obtain placements, in addition its hard to get on demand during weekends and / or afterhours.
- A member requested to to get IOP on the next agenda and the placement timeline. She also wondered what arrangements can be done with a case-by-case treatment.
- Mark Lawrenz would like to hear more about any of the folks that were denied treatment so that he may address those issues.

10:55 - 11:00 a.m.

Announcements

- The next SUD Quarterly Contract Partner Meeting will take place on 3/11/24.

11:03 a.m.

Adjourn

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 You may request supporting documentation distributed to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board as related to the agenda items upon request from Karla Perez, kperez@ochca.com